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PREFACE.

The first Labour Report issued by this Bureau was published in 1912. This Report is the forty-sixth of the series and deals chiefly with 1958, in addition to providing comparisons for previous years.

The Report follows in the main the lines of its immediate predecessors in scope and arrangement. The subject-matter has been divided into five chapters, namely, Retail Prices and Price Indexes; Wholesale Prices and Price Indexes; Wages and Hours; Employment and Unemployment (including Industrial Disputes); and Labour Organizations. The index at the end of the volume will considerably facilitate reference.

A brief summary of the International Labour Office Conventions which have been ratified by Australia is included in this Report (*see* page 156).

In tabulating the results of investigations as to rates of wage, labour organizations, industrial disputes, etc., the following grouping has been adopted in this Report:—

Groups of Industries and Occupations.

I.	Wood, Furniture, Sawmills, Timber Works, etc.	VIII.	Mining, Quarrying, etc.
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	IX.	Railway and Tramway Services.
III.	Food, Drink, and Tobacco—Manufacture and Distribution.	X.	Other Transport.
IV.	Clothing, Textiles, etc.	XI.	Shipping, Wharf Labour, etc.
V.	Books, Printing, Bookbinding, etc.	XII.	Pastoral, Agricultural, Rural, Horticultural, etc.
VI.	Other Manufacturing.	XIII.	Domestic, Hotels, etc.
VII.	Building.	XIV.	Miscellaneous.

Secretaries of trade unions and of employers' associations, officials of Commonwealth and State Departments, private employers, retail traders, house agents and others have readily supplied much information specially for the purposes of this Report, and my thanks are tendered to all who have thus assisted.

Grateful acknowledgment is also made of the continued assistance given by the Statistical Offices in the various States, especially in regard to the collection of retail prices.

I also desire to express my appreciation of the work done in the preparation of this Report by Mr. T. R. Jones, B.Com., the Supervisor of the Prices Branch, Mr. G. I. Neville, B.Com., the Supervisor of the Employment and Labour Branch, and the staff under their control.

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Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics,
Canberra, A.C.T., 9th June, 1959.

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CHAPTER I.—RETAIL PRICES AND PRICE INDEXES.

§ 1. Collection of Information as to Retail Prices.

Retail prices of food and groceries and average rentals of houses for years extending back to the year 1901 were collected by the Commonwealth Statistician, and in some cases have been recorded by the Statisticians of various States for earlier years.

Retail prices of a more extensive range of commodities (including clothing) and certain services in common demand have been ascertained at frequent and regular intervals since 1923 for each of the six capital cities and for 27 of the more important towns of Australia. Comparable information is available for the month of November in each year from 1914 to 1922 for each of the six capital cities.

The range of items for which retail price data is obtained was considerably extended in 1948 and in later years.

The retail prices of food and groceries in approximately 200 towns throughout Australia were collected as at November of each year from 1913 to 1942, when collection was discontinued.

The methods by which prices used in the retail price indexes are ascertained and the measures adopted to ensure their accuracy and comparability are briefly as follows:—

(i) Representative and reputable retailers are selected for each city and town covered by the indexes and each is required to furnish information as to prices monthly in respect of food and groceries and quarterly in respect of other items. Prices for each item are obtained where practicable from ten or more retailers in each of the capital cities, and from five or more retailers in each of the provincial towns. To cover all commodities in the indexes, collection is made from more than 60 retailers in each capital city and 30 in each provincial town. Whenever necessary, supplementary information is obtained from other retailers.

(ii) Information is collected under authority of the Census and Statistics Act 1905–1949, which requires that information be supplied accurately and promptly and ensures that particulars supplied by individual retailers will not be divulged to any other person or Government authority. Penalties are provided against failure to supply information, against supplying false information and against failure to answer truthfully any question asked by an authorized officer in respect of the contents of any return.

(iii) The actual collection of information is carried out by qualified Field Officers of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics working under the supervision of the Statisticians of the respective States. These Field Officers have very wide powers of investigation, including entry of premises and inspection of goods, records, etc.

(iv) The Field Officers not only receive and check returns but visit the retail shops concerned, whenever necessary, to obtain requisite information. In respect of articles of clothing and the like where variation of quality may be considerable, Field Officers are equipped with samples of the goods used for price comparisons. In such cases the Field Officers visit every retail informant at each quarterly collection and personally inspect the relevant goods and prices thereof.

(v) Before each quarterly collection Supervising Field Officers review the standards of the whole of the items for which prices are collected, after making extensive inquiries among manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers. These Supervising Field Officers periodically accompany Field Officers at their price collections and check their work. This not only ensures accuracy and assiduity but also that all Field Officers work on uniform lines and that, as far as care and effort can make it possible, prices are recorded for representative goods of constant quality.

(vi) The lists of items and the standards thereof are revised from time to time to keep them in harmony with changing conditions. Where such changes become necessary, suitable adjustments are made in computing the retail price indexes to ensure that they reflect changes in price with due precision and that they are not vitiated by the influence of other changes. Because of rapidly changing conditions since 1948, prices have been ascertained for an extended list of items. The purpose of this is to ensure that the indexes are kept representative and reliable within their definitions.

(vii) Returns of rents for unfurnished houses of four and five rooms are made at the middle of each quarter by a representative number (ranging up to 30) of house agents in each city and town covered by the indexes for brick and wooden houses respectively, classified according to number of rooms. These returns show the weekly rental of a substantial number of individual houses each of which is selected by the Field Officer as suitable for inclusion in a sample designed to measure the quarterly ratio of change in weekly rentals. The aim is to measure variations equivalent to change in price for a constant standard. The ratio of change is used to vary basic average rentals derived from Census results. Periodically since the Census of 1954 sample surveys have been made, by house to house inquiry, to ascertain current changes in the levels of rents and the extent of change in house renting as a mode of occupancy. Consideration is being given to the problem of obtaining data appropriate to a more broadly based housing component for the Interim Retail Price Index described in § 4 herein.

§ 2. Nature and Purpose of Retail Price Indexes.

1. General.—The basic principle of a retail price index is relatively simple. It is to select commodities representative of the field to be covered and to combine their prices at regular intervals in accordance with their relative importance in that field. The aim is to measure the degree of change in prices for the selected field taken as a whole.

In practice the application of this principle over a term of years presents great difficulty by reason of the numerous changes which occur in the type, grade and relative quantities of many of the items commonly used.

In compiling the retail price indexes the price of each item is multiplied by its quantity " weight " and then by its appropriate population or household " weight ". The sum of these products for all items at any given date represents an " aggregate expenditure ". The " aggregate expenditures " for successive periods are converted into an index by representing the aggregate of a selected

or " base " period by an appropriate number (e.g., 100 or 1,000), and calculating all index numbers to such base by the proportions which their aggregates bear to the aggregate of the base period.

2. **Essential Features.**—Apart from clear thinking, common sense and sound arithmetic, the prime essentials in compiling a retail price index are—

(*a*) that prices be accurately ascertained at regular intervals for goods of constant grade and quality;

(*b*) that the list of items be as representative as possible of the field to be covered;

(*c*) that the weights be in approximate proportion to quantities actually used in the selected field.

3. **The List of Items.**—The list of items must be a selected list because it is impossible in practice to ascertain at regular intervals prices of every item of goods and services entering into household expenditure. There is considerable difficulty in ensuring that the selected items are always a true sample. Some items which it would be desirable to include must be excluded because comparative prices cannot be accurately ascertained for them at different times. It is deemed better to limit the list to items for which price variations can be ascertained with reasonable accuracy than to distend it by including items for which price comparisons are necessarily inaccurate. Similarly, many items of small aggregate or individual importance are excluded. The list therefore is not (as is sometimes erroneously supposed) a basic wage regimen, nor is it a full list of component items in a standard of living. It does not imply that any particular goods or any selected grades or quantities of these goods should enter into determination of a basic or living wage. The lists used are simply selected items combined in certain proportions for the purpose of measuring price variations. The items are representative of the fields covered, and the proportions approximate to those in average consumption so far as can be ascertained. The list of items in the " C " Series Retail Price Index is representative of a high proportion of the expenditure of wage earner households as current in pre-war years. That of the Interim Retail Price Index is similarly representative for post-war years as from 1950.

4. **Purpose of Retail Price Indexes.**—Retail price indexes are designed to measure the extent of changes in price levels only. While they may be used as indicating proportionate variations in cost of a *constant* standard of living, they do not measure the absolute cost of any standard of living, nor the absolute cost of changes in the standard of living. In other words, they measure, as nearly as may be, the proportionate change in the aggregate cost of specified quantities and qualities of the selected list of items included in the index. *See also* Resolution 13 (*d*) of Conference of Statisticians quoted on page 6 hereof.

5. **Effects of Variable Conditions on Indexes.**—Under variable conditions since 1940, scarcity of certain types of goods, erratic supply and changes of grades in common use have created recurrent difficulty in obtaining the data necessary for measuring variations in prices. In some instances, these factors, as well as technological development and changes in fashion, have rendered it necessary to substitute new grades, qualities or types of articles for those formerly used as indicators of changes in price. This has been the case more particularly in the clothing, household drapery and household utensils sections of the indexes. Substitutions of similar kind were necessary at times under pre-war conditions in order to meet changes of fashion and usage. Such substitutions help to keep the indexes representative of current conditions and are not injurious to an index provided the transitional difficulties can be solved as

they arise. No change in principle is involved. The indexes continue to measure, as nearly as may be, price variations, and price variations only. Those differences in prices which are solely due to substitution of a new item for one which has ceased to be available or in common use are neutralized by taking the price of the old item as typical of price variation in its class up to the time of substitution, and the prices of the new items as typical of such changes in price thereafter.

Popular usage of items in general consumption changes slowly and the weights of individual items and groups of items used in retail price indexes require to be changed only at long intervals. But at times, scarcity of supplies of some goods, rationing and kindred factors may actually produce short-term changes in usage. In such periods, continuity of the index requires that the weights applicable to the items in the index be not changed at frequent short intervals.

Nevertheless, it has become desirable since 1950 to compile a new retail price index with a list of items and weights more representative of current usage than those of the former index. The problem of maintaining an index adequately representative of current usage has intensified since 1950 because of changes in the pattern of household expenditure and in modes of living.

The ensuing §§ 3 and 4 are the substance of a Statistical Bulletin issued in March, 1954 concerning the Interim Retail Price Index (1952–53 base year), then issued for the first time.

§ 3. Previous Retail Price Indexes.

1. **General.**—Four series of retail price indexes had been compiled at various times for Australia by the Commonwealth Statistician prior to 1954. Each of these was continued until changed conditions required the compilation of indexes more directly relevant to current conditions. The respective indexes were:—

(i) *The "A" Series Index* (covering food, groceries and house rents) was first compiled in 1912 with the year 1911 as base=1,000. It was discontinued in June, 1938. From 1913 to May, 1933 this index was used for wage adjustment purposes by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration. Some other tribunals continued to use it until 1938 in certain localities.

(ii) *The "B" Series Index* (covering food, groceries and rent of 4 and 5 roomed houses) was first compiled in 1925 and continued until the December Quarter, 1953. It was the food and rent constituent of the "C" Series Index and was designed to replace the "A" Series Index for general statistical purposes. The "B" Series Index was not used by industrial tribunals in connexion with the adjustment of wages. Its publication was discontinued as from the December Quarter, 1953.

(iii) *The "C" Series Index* (covering food and groceries, rent of 4 and 5 roomed houses, clothing, household drapery, household utensils, fuel, lighting, fares, smoking and some other miscellaneous items) was first compiled in 1921. It was used by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for purposes of quarterly wage adjustments from May, 1934 to August, 1953. Some State tribunals use or consider it in their proceedings. Its publication in mimeograph each quarter continues for the present in the customary form and on its customary basis. For general statistical purposes it has been replaced by the Interim Retail Price Index (1952–53 base year) described in the following pages.

(iv) *The "D" Series Index*, derived by combining the "A" and "C" Series Indexes, was used by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration from May, 1933 to May, 1934 and then discontinued.

Of the four retail price indexes described above, only the "C" Series continues to be compiled. The Interim Retail Price Index, first published in March, 1954, will continue in its present form until the components of certain groups are finalized.

2. **The "Court" Index.**—In 1937 the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration introduced a "Court" Index for the purpose of its system of making automatic quarterly adjustments to the basic wage within its jurisdiction. A "Court" Index (Second Series) was created by the Court in 1946 and a "Court" Index (Third Series) in November, 1950, to provide for automatic adjustment of the increased amounts of adjustable basic wage then determined by the Court at those dates. By decision of the Court the "Court" Index ceased to be issued by the Industrial Registrar as at the December Quarter, 1953. These "Court" Indexes were an arithmetical conversion of the "C" Series Retail Price Index.

§ 4. The Interim Retail Price Index (1952-53 Base Year).

1. **Origin of the Interim Retail Price Index (1952-53 Base Year).**—The list of component items and the weighting pattern of the "C" Series Retail Price Index were first adopted in 1921 but were reviewed by Conference of Statisticians in 1936. (*See* Labour Report No. 41, 1952, page 33, para. 2.)

From the outbreak of war in 1939 to late in 1948, periodic policy changes in regard to various war-time controls (including rationing) caused recurrent changes in consumption and the pattern of expenditure. This rendered it impracticable either to produce a new index or to revise the old one on any basis that would render the index more representative, than it already was, of the changing pattern. (*See* Labour Report No. 41, 1952, page 35, paras. 5 and 6, and Appendix, Section V., pages 164–213, especially page 174 showing the War-time "Trial" Index 1939–48 in comparison with the "C" Series Index, with comments submitted in the Statistician's evidence before the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in July, 1949.)

When commodity rationing had virtually ceased in the latter part of 1948, action was taken by the Statistician to collect price data of about 100 additional items and to gather information as to current consumption and expenditure patterns. This was done to facilitate review of the component items and weighting system of the "C" Series Retail Price Index, in the light of the new pattern of wage earner expenditure and consumption then emerging.

By the middle of 1949 a considerable number of new price series was coming into being and the body of data available as to expenditure and consumption (in the post-rationing period) was beginning to indicate something of the new weighting pattern likely to be appropriate for post-war review of the components and construction of the "C" Series Index. The position at that time and the action then taken were set out in a Memorandum submitted in evidence by the Statistician to the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in July, 1949. This was reprinted in Section V. of the Appendix to Labour Report No. 41, 1952, pages 164–213.

There supervened in the next two years conditions which caused wide price dispersion, a very rapid rise in prices and a new sequence of changes in consumption and the pattern of wage earner expenditure. Under these conditions

it was not possible to devise any new weighting pattern for the years 1949–50, 1950–51 and 1951–52 likely to be better suited to the index or more continuously representative of conditions then current than was the existing " C " Series Index on the 1936 revision. It was therefore decided by Conference of Statisticians to defer revision of the weighting system and component items of the " C " Series Index, and the new data on prices and consumption were used to test whether the aggregate " C " Series Index was reasonably reliable for current use as a retail price index.

In June, 1953, Conference of Statisticians was advised by the Acting Commonwealth Statistician (*a*) that although the aggregate " C " Series Index (as verified by supplementary indexes) was still reasonably reliable for current use, some of the component groups (more particularly food and miscellaneous) were not satisfactory individually; and (*b*) that the time had arrived either to produce a new index or to reconstruct the " C " Series Index extensively.

Concurrently in 1953 the Acting Commonwealth Statistician indicated (in successive Quarterly Statistical Statements containing the " C " Series Retail Price Index) that a memorandum would be prepared and issued on the subject of the index and the question of its weighting pattern and list of component items. The matter of the proposed memorandum was mentioned by a witness in evidence before the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in August, 1953. But as none of the parties to the Basic Wage Case then proceeding desired to raise any issue as to the adequacy or validity of the " C " Series Index for purposes of the Court, the Statistician did not present any memorandum or evidence in that case.

A Statistical Bulletin issued in March, 1954 and reproduced in this and the preceding section contains the substance of the memorandum then contemplated, with the addition of the new Interim Index.

The Interim Retail Price Index has been compiled pursuant to Resolution 13 of Conference of Statisticians in June, 1953, reading:—

" 13. *Retail Price Indexes*—

(*a*) That, in view of the persistence of recurrent changes in the pattern of consumer expenditure in the post-war period, it is undesirable to make a general revision of the list of items and weighting system of the " C " Series Retail Price Index at present, unless industrial tribunals expressly desire some revision for special purposes.

(*b*) That an Interim Retail Price Index be compiled with putative weights and components representative, as nearly as may be, of the post-war pattern of consumer usage and expenditure.

(*c*) That, having regard to the complexities of the problem and the limit of staff resources available, such interim index relate only to each capital city and to the six capital cities combined.

(*d*) That attention be drawn again to the statement already published that the " C " Series Retail Price Index cannot measure changes in relative retail price levels as between capital cities consistently with its main purpose of measuring periodic changes in retail price levels for each city.

(*e*) That the problem of measuring comparative retail price levels as between cities at any point of time differs in principle from the problem of measuring periodic variations in price levels in an individual city ".

In conformity with Section (*a*) of the foregoing Resolution, the " C " Series Retail Price Index has continued to be compiled and published quarterly in its customary form.

The Interim Retail Price Index (1952–53 base year) is compiled to implement Section (*b*) of Conference Resolution and used as the current retail price index in statistical publications of the Commonwealth Statistician for general statistical purposes, irrespective of what use is made of either index by any industrial tribunal for its own purposes.

In this regard the position is that industrial tribunals themselves decide what use (if any) they make of any available retail price index or whether they desire the Statistician to compile some special-purpose index for them. It is not the practice for the Statistician to express any view as to whether such tribunals should use retail price indexes in their deliberations. The Statistician, in the normal course of his duties, compiles and publishes various price indexes, states their definition (what they measure), explains how they are constructed and gives evidence or public information when desired concerning them.

With respect to Sections (*d*) and (*e*) of Conference Resolution the Statistician is prepared to compile data as to relative price levels in respective capital cities on the basis specified by an industrial tribunal for its purposes. The Interim Retail Price Index relates only to six capital cities of Australia, because it is not practicable with existing staff resources to collect price data for the greatly enlarged list of items for 28 other cities and towns. These continue to be covered for the less extensive list of items used for the " C " Series Index.

2. **Definition of the Interim Retail Price Index.**—This index provides the interim results of researches designed to measure retail price variations for each of six capital cities individually (with 1952–53 = 100 as base year for each city) on the basis of:—

(*a*) a current pattern of wage earner expenditure using recent consumption weights for foods and recent expenditure weights for combining groups of items into the aggregate index;

(*b*) a wider range of commodities and services than that covered by any existing price index in order to provide greater representativeness; and

(*c*) individual city weights for such items as electricity, gas and fares.

The components and weighting of the Interim Retail Price Index are being reviewed in the light of data derived from the Census of Retail Sales as to consumer expenditure on various kinds of goods, estimates of consumer expenditure on services relevant to construction of a retail price index of this type and data as to rents and housing derived from the Census of 30th June, 1954 and additional special surveys. It is proposed to cast the index into final form as soon as possible and this may entail some revision in the index.

3. **Differences between the Structure of the Interim Retail Price Index and the " C " Series Retail Price Index.**—The main differences between the structure of the Interim Retail Price Index and that of the " C " Series Retail Price Index are (*a*) the group weights and item weights of the Interim Index relate broadly to the consumption pattern 1950–53, while those of the " C " Series Index relate to pre-war years; and (*b*) the Interim Index includes a large number of items not included in the " C " Series Index. A full list of the items used in the Interim Index is shown in § 4, pages 9–12 hereof. The list of items in the Interim Index is to be amended in some respects when the index is put into final form.

The differences in structure of each group of items as adopted for the Interim Retail Price Index are summarized below:—

(i) *Food Group.*—(*a*) The weights of some of the main items (e.g., milk, eggs, meat, potatoes and flour) in the Interim Index are substantially different from those in the "C" Series Index to accord generally with average consumption in the years 1949–50 to 1952–53. (*b*) Twenty-four new items have been added to the Food Group, extending the group coverage over a wider field. The principal new items are lamb, packaged breakfast foods, biscuits, ice cream, processed cheese, honey, sandwich spreads, coffee, cocoa, soft drinks and certain types of confectionery. (*c*) The total number of items in the Food Group of the Interim Index is 60 as compared with 38 in the "C" Series Index. Two items which were included in the "C" Series Index are not included in the Interim Index owing to the difficulty of securing satisfactory price data for them. Two non-food items (soap and kerosene) included in the Food and Groceries Group of the "C" Series Index appear in the Other Items Group of the Interim Index. The Group name "Food and Groceries" in the "C" Series Index is changed to "Food" in the Interim Index.

(ii) *Clothing and Drapery Group.*—In the Interim Index, 17 new items have been added to the Clothing and Drapery Group, and 25 items each formerly represented by one type of article are now each represented by two or more types. Consequential adjustments have been made in weights of individual items. The principal new items added to this group are:—sports coat, sports trousers, cardigan (and other types of knitted wear), overalls, piece-goods (rayon, cotton and woollen) and knitting wool.

(iii) *Rent Group.*—This group is almost identical in both indexes. Available data indicate (*a*) that, in general, very few new houses have been built by private owners for renting in the post-war years; (*b*) that in some cities considerable numbers of new Government houses have been built for renting or occupancy on a quasi-rental basis; and (*c*) that there has been a substantial increase in the numbers of owner-occupied houses, including new instalment-purchase or quasi-instalment-purchase houses under Governmental and private housing schemes. In recent years the difficulty of obtaining data suitable for the housing component of a price index has therefore intensified. The Census of 1954 showed that a very rapid diminution had occurred since 1947 in both the numbers and proportions of privately rented houses. Recent supplementary surveys indicate a continuation of this trend in the six capital cities. Further study is therefore being given to the hitherto intractable problems associated with measuring at quarterly intervals "housing price" variations in a form suitable for use in a retail price index in respect of owner-occupied houses, instalment-purchase houses, and houses occupied under the various types of Governmental housing schemes.

(iv) *Other Items Group.*—Six sub-groups are included in the Interim Index to replace Sections L, M and N of the Miscellaneous Group of the "C" Series Index. These six sub-groups of the new index comprise 75 items as compared with 32 in the old index, substantially enlarging their representativeness. The principal new items are garden tools, floor coverings, shaving cream, toilet soap, etc., patent medicines, baby foods, hairdressing, dry cleaning, shoe repairs, postage, etc. Necessary adjustments have been made to bring the group weight into conformity with recent expenditure and consumption patterns. The weight of this group is much greater than it was in the "C" Series Index. Further extensions of the list of items are under consideration and research is proceeding into problems of weighting for additional items.

(v) *Group Weights.*—The group weights in the Interim Index have been brought into general conformity with the estimated group distribution of wage earner household expenditure in recent years over the field covered. In some cases the weights are putative weights assessed on available data and are subject to some revision.

In the year 1952–53 the ratio of the individual group "aggregate expenditure" to the "aggregate expenditure" of the whole index for the six capital cities combined was as follows:—

Group.	"C" Series Retail Price Index. (Per cent.)	Interim Retail Price Index. (Per cent.)
Food	41.0	37.1
Clothing and Drapery ..	33.0	26.8
Rent	11.3	9.0
Other Items	14.7 (4.5, 5.3, 2.8, 2.1)	27.1 (4.6 Fuel and Light; 4.6 Household Sundries; 2.5 Certain Repairs and Services; 3.0 Cinema, Radio, Newspapers; 6.6 Rail, Tram and Bus Fares; 5.8 Tobacco and Cigarettes)
	100.0	100.0

In the Interim Index common weights are adopted for all groups and items in the index for each city except in respect of fares, gas, electricity and some minor items. The resultant indexes measure price movement from period to period *for each city separately*. While they indicate *degree* of price movement from time to time for respective cities, they do not indicate the *relative* level of prices (or level of living costs) in each city.

For that reason the Interim Index of each city in the base year 1952–53 is 100. In the case of the "C" Series Index as published herein, the weighted average of the six capital cities combined is 1,000 on the base period 1923–27 and the index of each individual capital city is in ratio thereto (except where "C" Series Indexes of each city have been arithmetically converted to the base 100 for the year 1952–53 for purposes of comparison with the Interim Index).

4. **List of Items—Interim Retail Price Index.**—The following is a list of items embraced within the Interim Retail Price Index. Items included in the Interim Index and not in the "C" Series Retail Price Index are denoted by asterisks.

List of Items—Interim Retail Price Index.

FOOD—
- Cereal Products—
  - Bread.
  - Flour, Plain.
  - Flour, Self-raising.
  - Biscuits.*
  - Flaked Oats.
  - Rice.
  - Prepared Breakfast Foods—
    - From Wheat.*
    - From Maize.*

FOOD—*continued.*
- Dairy Produce—
  - Milk, Fresh.
  - Milk, Powdered.*
  - Milk, Condensed.
  - Cheese, Processed.*
  - Cheese, Other.
  - Butter
  - Eggs.
  - Bacon

List of Items—Interim Retail Price Index—*continued.*

FOOD—*continued.*

- Potatoes, Onions, Preserved Fruit and Vegetables—
  - Peaches, Canned.
  - Pears, Canned.
  - Raisins, Seeded.
  - Currants, Loose.
  - Prunes.*
  - Green Peas, Canned.*
  - Potatoes.
  - Onions.
- Soft Drink, Chocolate Confectionery and Ice Cream—
  - Soft Drink.*
  - Chocolate Confectionery.*
  - Ice Cream.*
- Other (except Meat)—
  - Sugar.
  - Jam.
  - Golden Syrup.
  - Honey.*
  - Sandwich Spreads.*
  - Baked Beans.*
  - Spaghetti.*
  - Sardines.*
  - Margarine.*
  - Seed Tapioca.
  - Sauce, Tomato.*
  - Tea.
  - Cocoa.*
  - Coffee.*
- Meat—
  - Beef—
    - Sirloin Roast.
    - Rib Roast.
    - Steak,Rump.
    - Steak,Blade.*
    - Steak,Chuck.
    - Sausages.
    - Silverside.
    - Brisket.
  - Mutton—
    - Leg.
    - Forequarter.
    - Chops, Loin.
    - Chops, Leg.
  - Lamb—
    - Leg.*
    - Forequarter.*
    - Chops, Loin.*
    - Chops, Leg.*
  - Pork—
    - Leg.
    - Loin.
    - Chops.

CLOTHING AND DRAPERY—

- Men's—
  - Suit.
  - Overcoat.
  - Sports Coat.*
  - Sports Trousers.*

CLOTHING AND DRAPERY—*continued.*

- Men's—*continued.*
  - Pullover.
  - Cardigan.*
  - Pullover (Sleeveless).*
  - Working Trousers (Cotton).
  - Working Trousers (Wool).*
  - Overalls.*
  - Shirt, Ordinary Wear.
  - Shirt, Work.
  - Singlet, Flannel.*
  - Singlet, Wool and Cotton.
  - Singlet, Athletic.
  - Underpants, Wool and Cotton.
  - Underpants, Cotton.
  - Pyjamas.
  - Socks.
  - Hats.
  - Braces.
  - Handkerchiefs.
- Women's—
  - Costume
  - Skirt.
  - Cardigan.
  - Twin Set.*
  - Dress, Cotton.
  - Dress, Rayon.
  - Slip.
  - Vest, Wool and Rayon.
  - Vest, Rayon.
  - Panties, Bloomers, etc.
  - Brassiere.
  - Nightdress.
  - Pyjamas.
  - Corsets.*
  - Stockings, Nylon.
  - Stockings, Lisle.
  - Hat, Felt.
  - Beret.*
  - Hat, Straw.
  - Gloves, Fabric.
  - Gloves, Nappa.
  - Umbrella.*
  - Apron.
- Children's—
  - Boys'—
    - Suit.
    - Overcoat.
    - Pants.
    - Pullover.
    - Shirt—
      - Sports.
      - Ranger.
    - Singlet—
      - Wool.
      - Cotton Athletic.
    - Hose—
      - Golf.
      - Anklet.
    - Pyjamas.
    - Cap.
    - Braces.

List of Items—Interim Retail Price Index—*continued.*

CLOTHING AND DRAPERY—*continued.*
- Children's—*continued.*
  - Girls'—
    - Tunic.
    - Overcoat.
    - Blazer.*
    - Pullover.
    - Dress.
    - Petticoat.
    - Singlet—
      - Wool and Rayon.
      - Rayon.
    - Panties, Bloomers, etc.—
      - Fleecy Lined.
      - Rayon.
    - Pyjamas—
      - Winceyette.
      - Rayon.
    - Socks.
    - Hat—
      - Felt.
      - Straw.
- Piece-goods, etc.—
  - Rayon.*
  - Cotton.*
  - Woollen.*
  - Fingering Wool.*
- Footwear—
  - Men's—
    - Working Boots.
    - Shoes.
  - Women's—
    - Shoes, Best.
    - Shoes, Ordinary.
  - Children's—
    - Boys' Shoes.
    - Girls' Best.
    - Girls' School.
    - Young Children's.
- Household Drapery—
  - Blankets, D.B.
  - Blankets, S.B.
  - Sheets, D.B.
  - Sheets, S.B.
  - Sheeting.*
  - Pillow Slip.
  - Pillow.*
  - Towel.
  - Tea Towel.

RENT—
- Four and five roomed tenanted houses.

OTHER ITEMS—
- *Electricity, Gas, and Firewood—*
  - Electricity.
  - Gas.
  - Firewood.
- *Household Sundries—*
  - Household Utensils—
    - Plate, Dinner.
    - Jug.
    - Pudding Basin.
    - Tumbler.
    - Saucepan.
    - Pressure Cooker.*
    - Cake Tin.*
    - Frying Pan.*
    - Boiler.*
    - Cutlery—
      - Knife, Table.
      - Tea Spoon.
      - Dessert Spoon.
      - Fork, Table.
    - Globe, Electric.
    - Iron, Electric.
    - Toaster, Electric.*
    - Jug, Electric.*
    - Spade.*
    - Fork.*
    - Rake.*
    - Hoe.*
    - Lawn Mower.*
    - Bucket.
    - Broom—
      - Millet.
      - Hair.
    - Scrubbing Brush.
    - Polishing Mop.
    - Axe.*
  - Floor Coverings—
    - Carpet.*
    - Linoleum.*
    - Felt.*
  - Other—
    - Matches.*
    - Kerosene.
    - Steel Wool.*
    - Boot Polish.*
    - Starch.*
    - Cleaner Paste.*
    - Soap, Household.
    - Soap, Powder.*
    - Personal Requisites—
      - Toilet Soap.*
      - Shaving Cream.*
      - Tooth Paste.*
      - Razor Blades.*
      - Antiseptic.*
    - Proprietary Medicines, etc.—
      - Cough Mixture.*
      - Tonic.*
      - A.P.C. Powders.*
      - Cascara.*
      - Ointment.*
      - Baby Food.*
    - School Requisites—
      - Lead Pencil.
      - Penholder.
      - Nibs.
      - Eraser.
      - Ruler.
      - Pastels.
      - Blotting Paper.
      - Exercise Books.

List of Items—Interim Retail Price Index—*continued.*

OTHER ITEMS—*continued.*
Services—
Hairdressing.*
Drycleaning—
Men's—
Suit (3 piece).*
Suit (2 piece).*
Sports Trousers.*
Sports Coat.*
Women's—
Frock.*
Skirt.*
Overcoat.*
Shoe Repairs—
Men's.*
Boys'.*
Women's.*
Postage.*
Telegram.*
Telephone—
Private Phone Call.*
Public Phone Call.*
Rental.*

OTHER ITEMS—*continued.*
Cinema Admission, Radio Licence and Newspapers—
Cinema—
Adult Admission.
Child's Admission.
Radio Licence.
Newpapers—
Morning.
Evening.

Fares (City and Suburban Train, Tram and Bus)—
Train Fares.
Tram and Bus Fares.

Tobacco and Cigarettes—
Cigarettes
Tobacco—
Cigarette.
Pipe.
Cigarette Papers.

5. **Comparison of Trends of the Interim Retail Price Index with Trends of the "C" Series Retail Price Index.**—The following table shows for each of the years 1952–53 to 1957–58 and for each quarter from the December Quarter, 1955 to the December Quarter, 1958 the Interim Index for the six capital cities combined, with the year 1952–53 as base = 100, in comparison with the "C" Series Index arithmetically converted to the same base. A similar table, including each quarter from September Quarter, 1952, is given in Appendix, Section III.

Period.	Six Capital Cities (Weighted Average).			
	"C" Series Index.		Interim Index.	
			A	B
Year ended June—				
1953	100.0		100.0	100.0
1954	102.8		102.2	102.5
1955	103.7		103.7	103.6
	A	B		
1956	107.5	108.8	107.0	108.0
1957	112.2	114.1	113.0	114.3
1958	114.7	114.3	115.7	115.6
Quarter ended—				
1955—December	106.7	107.7	106.3	107.0
1956—March	107.8	109.0	107.4	108.3
June	109.7	111.8	109.4	110.8
September	111.1	115.6	111.5	114.4
December	111.7	114.2	112.5	114.2
1957—March	112.6	112.8	113.5	113.7
June	113.5	113.8	114.5	114.8
September	114.0	113.8	115.1	115.1
December	114.0	113.5	115.1	114.9
1958—March	115.0	114.7	115.9	115.8
June	115.9	115.3	116.7	116.5
September	116.3	115.7	117.1	116.9
December	117.3	117.0	118.3	118.3

NOTE.—Indexes in columns "A" exclude, and those in columns "B" include, potatoes and onions.
See paragraph 6 on page 15.

The figures appearing after the decimal point possess little significance for general statistical purposes. They are inserted merely to avoid the distortion that would occur in rounding off the figures to the nearest whole number. (*See* note to table in Appendix, Section III.). Price indexes cannot measure aggregate price variations with an accuracy of the order of one-tenth of 1 per cent.

With changing conditions significant divergencies may occur between the movements shown by a retail price index (such as the "C" Series Index) constructed on pre-war weights and a comparatively limited range of major items and a retail price index (such as the Interim Index) constructed on 1950–53 weights and a broader list of items.

Due regard should be paid to the fact that a composite price index is necessarily an approximate summary which combines into one aggregate price variations of many items. Any more rigid use of the index for specific purposes is the responsibility of the bodies or persons using the indexes.

The following indexes are based on the year 1952–53 = 100 for *each* city. They therefore measure price movements from period to period *for each city separately*. While they indicate *degree* of price movement from time to time for respective cities, they do not indicate the *relative* level of prices (or level of living costs) in each city.

At times appreciable disparities appear in the movement of the respective indexes for individual cities from quarter to quarter. The Interim Index, being based on recent weights and an extended list of items, is the more representative measure of current quarterly retail price variations.

Pending completion of investigations into the problem of devising a housing component more widely based than the present rent component, housing is represented in both indexes only by rentals of private houses of 4 and 5 rooms. As the laws governing rent control differ as between cities and as modifications therein are made in varying degrees and at irregular intervals, both indexes (including this rent component) show sporadic periodic movements due to sudden changes in law relating to rents. These are reflected in Table A on page 14.

In order to provide a clearer perspective of the movement of retail *commodity* prices, Table B has been compiled to embrace all commodities and services (other than rents) which are included within the respective indexes.

"C" SERIES AND INTERIM RETAIL PRICE INDEX NUMBERS.

(*Base of Each Index for Each City: Year* 1952–53 = 100.)

TABLE A.—ALL GROUPS INCLUDING RENT.(*a*)

Quarter.	SYDNEY.		MELBOURNE.		BRISBANE.		ADELAIDE.		PERTH.		HOBART.		SIX CAPITALS. (Weighted Average).	
	"C" Series.	Interim.	"C" Series.	Interim.	"C" Series.	Interim.	"C" Series.	Interim.	"C" Series.	Interim.	"C" Series.	Interim.	"C" Series.	Interim.
1955—September ..	105.5	104.6	106.7	105.8	105.8	105.6	106.8	106.0	114.1	111.1	107.9	108.2	106.6	105.7
December ..	106.2	105.4	108.6	108.3	105.8	106.0	107.7	106.4	114.7	111.6	109.8	109.6	107.7	107.0
1956—March	107.0	106.2	110.6	110.4	107.6	107.3	107.8	106.8	116.0	113.1	113.6	113.0	109.0	108.3
June	109.8	108.5	113.9	113.3	109.4	109.5	110.7	109.7	117.9	115.2	115.4	115.1	111.8	110.8
September ..	114.5	114.0	117.2	115.7	112.8	111.9	114.0	111.6	119.4	116.6	118.2	118.3	115.6	114.4
December ..	112.7	113.8	116.1	115.5	111.2	111.2	112.7	110.9	119.8	117.6	118.6	119.4	114.2	114.2
1957—March	111.9	113.7	113.5	114.1	110.5	111.4	109.8	109.7	120.9	118.7	117.5	118.9	112.8	113.7
June	112.5	114.7	114.7	115.3	111.2	112.4	111.5	111.3	122.5	120.2	118.4	119.6	113.8	114.8
September ..	112.7	115.0	114.5	115.5	111.5	112.5	112.2	112.2	122.4	120.1	117.2	118.8	113.8	115.1
December ..	112.3	114.8	114.1	115.3	112.9	113.4	111.3	111.7	120.6	119.1	117.4	119.1	113.5	114.9
1958—March	114.5	116.4	114.3	115.5	114.8	114.9	111.3	112.1	120.8	119.4	118.4	119.7	114.7	115.8
June	114.4	116.4	114.8	116.0	117.2	117.3	113.9	114.0	122.4	120.7	118.6	120.3	115.3	116.5
September ..	114.1	116.2	115.4	116.7	118.3	118.0	115.7	115.2	122.9	121.2	119.3	120.9	115.7	116.9
December ..	114.9	116.9	117.5	119.4	120.2	120.0	117.0	116.0	122.7	121.1	121.0	122.5	117.6	118.3

TABLE B.—COMMODITIES AND SERVICES EXCLUDING RENT.(*a*)

(The following indexes relate to food, groceries, clothing and miscellaneous items other than rent.)

Quarter.	SYDNEY.		MELBOURNE.		BRISBANE.		ADELAIDE.		PERTH.		HOBART.		SIX CAPITALS. (Weighted Average).	
	"C" Series.	Interim.	"C" Series.	Interim.	"C" Series.	Interim.	"C" Series.	Interim.	"C" Series.	Interim.	"C" Series.	Interim.	"C" Series.	Interim.
1955—September ..	104.7	104.0	107.1	106.1	105.7	105.6	106.1	105.3	108.2	106.1	107.7	108.1	106.0	105.2
December ..	105.5	104.8	109.3	108.9	105.8	106.0	106.9	105.7	108.6	106.5	109.8	109.5	107.2	106.5
1956—March	106.3	105.6	109.5	109.5	107.6	107.3	106.7	105.9	109.8	107.7	110.2	110.3	107.8	107.3
June	109.5	108.1	113.1	112.6	109.6	109.6	109.7	108.8	111.4	109.6	111.5	112.1	110.9	109.9
September ..	114.8	114.2	116.7	115.1	113.3	112.2	113.1	110.7	112.7	110.9	114.3	115.3	115.0	113.8
December ..	112.8	113.9	115.4	114.8	111.3	111.2	111.3	109.6	113.0	111.8	114.3	116.2	113.4	113.5
1957—March	111.6	113.7	112.5	113.2	110.4	111.3	107.6	108.0	114.0	113.0	112.7	115.3	111.5	112.8
June	112.0	114.6	113.6	114.4	111.0	112.3	109.3	109.5	115.6	114.3	113.5	116.0	112.4	113.9
September ..	112.1	114.9	113.3	114.5	111.1	112.3	109.7	110.2	115.2	114.0	112.0	115.0	112.3	114.0
December ..	111.5	114.5	112.8	114.3	112.5	113.2	108.4	109.6	113.0	112.7	111.9	115 0	111.8	113.7
1958—March	113.8	116.1	113.0	114.4	114.7	114.8	108.3	109.9	113.1	113.0	112.6	115.5	113.0	114.6
June	113.5	116.0	113.3	114.8	114.9	115.4	110.3	111.2	114.2	113.9	112.5	115.8	113.2	115.0
September ..	112.8	115.6	113.8	115.4	115.8	116.0	112.1	112.3	114.6	114.3	113.0	116.2	113.4	115.2
December ..	113.6	116.1	115.9	118.1	117.6	117.9	113.2	113.0	114.2	114.0	114.6	117.8	114.7	116.5

(*a*) Including potatoes and onions. *See* paragraph 6 on page 15.

6. **Compilation of Indexes Including and Excluding Price Movement of Potatoes and Onions.**—Abnormally large seasonal fluctuations in prices of potatoes and onions had a major effect (first upwards and then downwards) on the movement of the price indexes in most cities from September Quarter, 1956 to March Quarter, 1957. These transient fluctuations also caused highly disparate movements in the aggregate indexes as between cities. In order to provide an indication of the recent trend of the indexes apart from these abnormally large seasonal fluctuations, index numbers excluding the effects of price movements of potatoes and onions are calculated for comparison with those which include the items.

The Interim Retail Price Index is calculated both inclusive and exclusive of potatoes and onions as from the base period 1952–53. For the " C " Series Retail Price Index, index numbers have been calculated excluding the price movement of potatoes and onions as from (and including) September Quarter, 1955.

7. **Tabular Statements of Interim Retail Price Index Numbers.**—Interim Retail Price index numbers are published as follows:—

Monthly.—The *Monthly Review of Business Statistics* contains annual and quarterly index numbers to the latest available date.

Quarterly.—Statements are issued about three weeks after the end of each quarter relating to the Interim Retail Price Index for that quarter and immediately preceding quarters. The *Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics* contains annual and quarterly index numbers to the latest available date.

Annually.—Tables are contained in the Labour Report and in the *Official Year Book*.

On the following pages are published:—

(i) the Interim Retail Price index numbers for each of the years ended June from 1953 to 1958, and for each quarter during the period December Quarter, 1957 to December Quarter, 1958, for each capital city and for the six capital cities combined, and showing also separate indexes for each of the four groups of items (pp. 16–17);

(ii) the Interim Retail Price index numbers for each of the years ended June from 1953 to 1958, and for each quarter during the period December Quarter, 1955 to December Quarter, 1958, for the weighted average of the six capital cities combined, showing also separate indexes for each of the four groups of items (page 17).

INTERIM RETAIL PRICE INDEX NUMBERS.

(Base of each Index: Year 1952–53 = 100.)

NOTE.—The index numbers hereunder are designed to measure aggregate variations in retail prices of specified groups of items for specified cities individually. They measure variations from time to time and not differences in price level as between cities nor comparative costs of groups of items.

City.	Year ended June, 1953.	Year ended June, 1954.	Year ended June, 1955.	Year ended June, 1956.	Year ended June, 1957.	Year ended June, 1958.	1957.	1958.			
							Dec. Qtr.	Mar. Qtr.	June Qtr.	Sept. Qtr.	Dec. Qtr.
GROUP I.—FOOD (EXCLUDING POTATOES AND ONIONS).(*a*)											
Sydney	100.0	101.5	104.0	106.7	111.4	113.6	111.9	115.4	114.6	113.3	113.8
Melbourne ..	100.0	103.8	104.7	109.9	114.2	114.9	114.3	114.8	115.1	115.3	115.2
Brisbane	100.0	102.2	103.4	104.7	108.4	113.3	112.5	115.0	115.8	116.0	117.6
Adelaide	100.0	102.5	106.3	108.7	111.1	112.2	110.7	110.9	114.2	116.0	116.9
Perth	100.0	106.3	109.4	111.0	115.8	115.0	113.5	114.2	115.6	116.0	114.7
Hobart	100.0	106.9	106.7	111.3	115.3	114.7	114.8	114.8	114.8	115.8	117.0
Six Capitals(*b*) ..	100.0	102.8	104.8	108.1	112.4	114.0	112.8	114.6	114.9	114.7	115.1
GROUP I.—FOOD (INCLUDING POTATOES AND ONIONS).											
Sydney	100.0	102.4	103.6	109.0	114.4	112.9	110.9	114.7	113.7	112.4	113.4
Melbourne ..	100.0	104.6	104.3	112.9	118.6	115.1	114.6	114.9	114.9	114.9	115.7
Brisbane	100.0	104.1	104.2	108.1	112.1	113.4	112.1	115.4	115.6	116.3	118.1
Adelaide	100.0	103.5	106.2	111.1	114.9	111.9	110.4	110.8	113.4	115.3	117.2
Perth	100.0	106.3	109.5	111.3	116.8	115.4	114.0	114.4	115.7	116.2	114.9
Hobart	100.0	107.7	106.8	113.6	118.3	114.4	114.2	115.1	114.2	114.8	116.6
Six Capitals(*b*) ..	100.0	103.7	104.6	110.6	115.8	113.7	112.4	114.4	114.4	114.2	115.1
GROUP II.—CLOTHING AND DRAPERY.											
Sydney	100.0	101.7	102.3	103.0	105.9	108.8	108.7	108.8	109.7	109.8	110.0
Melbourne ..	100.0	101.3	102.2	103.9	106.4	110.5	110.3	110.5	111.6	111.6	111.6
Brisbane	100.0	101.7	102.9	103.3	105.8	109.2	109.1	109.4	110.2	110.3	110.9
Adelaide	100.0	102.2	102.9	102.9	103.9	107.1	107.1	107.2	108.1	108.2	108.0
Perth	100.0	100.9	101.6	103.0	105.4	108.5	108.3	108.5	109.6	109.7	110.5
Hobart	100.0	102.6	103.1	104.6	107.8	110.6	110.4	110.6	111.6	111.8	112.4
Six Capitals(*b*) ..	100.0	101.6	102.4	103.3	105.8	109.2	109.1	109.3	110.2	110.3	110.5
GROUP III.—RENT(*c*) (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES).											
Sydney	100.0	107.7	109.5	111.3	113.5	118.8	117.9	119.5	120.8	123.0	124.2
Melbourne ..	100.0	100.8	102.3	111.9	123.3	127.1	126.6	127.3	128.8	130.5	132.7
Brisbane	100.0	102.9	105.2	107.0	111.0	120.8	115.5	115.9	136.7	139.0	141.7
Adelaide	100.0	102.7	105.6	114.9	124.8	134.6	132.6	133.9	140.6	143.0	144.8
Perth	100.0	110.8	149.6	159.1	169.2	176.2	174.7	176.0	180.5	182.0	183.5
Hobart	100.0	108.8	109.4	126.1	151.9	160.4	158.9	161.2	164.7	166.3	168.7
Six Capitals(*b*) ..	100.0	105.0	109.6	115.5	122.5	128.4	127.0	128.2	132.2	134.2	136.0
GROUP IV.—OTHER ITEMS.											
Sydney	100.0	100.5	100.9	103.6	121.5	124.8	124.8	124.8	124.8	125.3	125.5
Melbourne ..	100.0	100.9	101.3	109.6	116.4	117.7	117.7	117.7	118.0	119.7	127.7
Brisbane	100.0	103.0	104.5	110.1	117.9	120.0	119.6	120.1	121.0	121.8	125.4
Adelaide	100.0	99.3	99.9	103.7	107.9	111.2	111.1	111.4	111.6	112.6	112.6
Perth	100.0	100.8	101.9	106.4	113.7	115.8	115.7	115.8	115.9	116.4	116.6
Hobart	100.0	108.2	105.1	110.3	120.1	121.4	121.0	121.1	122.3	123.0	125.2
Six Capitals(*b*) ..	100.0	100.9	101.4	106.4	117.8	120.2	120.1	120.2	120.4	121.4	124.5

NOTE.—For footnotes *see* next page.

INTERIM RETAIL PRICE INDEX NUMBERS—*continued.*

(*Base of each Index: Year* 1952–53 = 100.)

City.	Year ended June, 1953.	Year ended June, 1954.	Year ended June, 1955.	Year ended June, 1956.	Year ended June, 1957.	Year ended June, 1958.	1957. Dec. Qtr.	1958. Mar. Qtr.	1958. June Qtr.	1958. Sept. Qtr.	1958. Dec. Qtr.
ALL GROUPS (EXCLUDING POTATOES AND ONIONS).(*a*)											
Sydney	100.0	101.9	103.2	105.3	113.0	116.0	115.2	116.7	116.8	116.6	117.1
Melbourne ..	100.0	102.1	102.9	108.4	113.5	115.5	115.2	115.5	116.1	116.8	119.2
Brisbane	100.0	102.3	103.7	105.9	110.3	114.5	113.6	114.8	117.3	117.9	119.8
Adelaide	100.0	101.6	103.6	106.3	109.5	112.6	111.8	112.1	114.2	115.4	115.9
Perth	100.0	103.9	109.5	112.6	117.9	119.7	118.9	119.4	120.7	121.2	121.0
Hobart	100.0	106.3	105.6	110.6	118.0	119.7	119.4	119.7	120.6	121.3	122.8
Six Capitals(*b*) ..	100.0	102.2	103.7	107.0	113.0	115.7	115.1	115.9	116.7	117.1	118.3
ALL GROUPS (INCLUDING POTATOES AND ONIONS).											
Sydney	100.0	102.2	103.1	106.1	114.1	115.7	114.8	116.4	116.4	116.2	116.9
Melbourne ..	100.0	102.4	102.7	109.5	115.1	115.6	115.3	115.5	116.0	116.7	119.4
Brisbane	100.0	103.0	104.0	107.1	111.7	114.5	113.4	114.9	117.3	118.0	120.0
Adelaide	100.0	102.0	103.6	107.2	110.9	112.5	111.7	112.1	114.0	115.2	116.0
Perth	100.0	103.9	109.6	112.7	118.3	119.8	119.1	119.4	120.7	121.2	121.1
Hobart	100.0	106.6	105.6	111.5	119.1	119.5	119.1	119.7	120.3	120.9	122.5
Six Capitals(*b*) ..	100.0	102.5	103.6	108.0	114.3	115.6	114.9	115.8	116.5	116.9	118.3

(*a*) *See* paragraph 6 on page 15. (*b*) Weighted average. (*c*) *Rent.*—The rent index numbers shown in the tables in this Report measure the proportionate rise and fall in the average weekly rentals paid for houses of four and five rooms, taking corresponding houses throughout. They are "price" indexes in the strict sense, i.e., they are designed to measure only the "price" element in rent fluctuations. Rentals of new tenanted houses completed since the end of the 1939–45 War are not taken into account.

INTERIM RETAIL PRICE INDEX: GROUP INDEXES.

WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF SIX CAPITAL CITIES.

(*Base: Year* 1952–53=100.)

Period.	Food.(*a*) A	Food.(*a*) B	Clothing and Drapery.	Rent.(*b*)	Other Items.	Aggregate All Groups.(*a*) A	Aggregate All Groups.(*a*) B
Year ended June—							
1953	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1954	102.8	103.7	101.6	105.0	100.9	102.2	102.5
1955	104.8	104.6	102.4	109.6	101.4	103.7	103.6
1956	108.1	110.6	103.3	115.5	106.4	107.0	108.0
1957	112.4	115.8	105.8	122.5	117.8	113.0	114.3
1958	114.0	113.7	109.2	128.4	120.2	115.7	115.6
Quarter ended—							
1955—December ..	107.0	109.0	103.4	112.0	106.2	106.3	107.0
1956—March ..	108.2	110.6	103.3	118.8	106.7	107.4	108.3
June ..	110.7	114.5	103.4	119.7	110.1	109.4	110.8
September ..	111.9	119.6	103.8	120.6	115.6	111.5	114.4
December ..	111.6	116.2	105.3	121.5	117.8	112.5	114.2
1957—March ..	112.6	113.2	106.3	123.1	118.5	113.5	113.7
June ..	113.3	114.2	107.9	124.6	119.3	114.5	114.8
September ..	113.7	113.8	108.4	126.1	119.9	115.1	115.1
December ..	112.8	112.4	109.1	127.0	120.1	115.1	114.9
1958—March ..	114.6	114.4	109.3	128.2	120.2	115.9	115.8
June ..	114.9	114.4	110.2	132.2	120.4	116.7	116.5
September ..	114.7	114.2	110.3	134.2	121.4	117.1	116.9
December ..	115.1	115.1	110.5	136.0	124.5	118.3	118.3

(*a*) The index in column "A" excludes, and that in column "B" includes, potatoes and onions. *See* paragraph 6 on page 15. (*b*) *See* note (*c*) to table above.

§ 5. The "C" Series Retail Price Index: 1914-1958.

1. **Construction.**—Full particulars relating to the construction, items, weights and method of tabulation of the "C" Series Retail Price Index were last published in Labour Report No. 41, 1952, on pages 10–18. Tabular statements of index numbers were shown on pages 19–27, and historical particulars of the index, and its relation to automatic basic wage variations prior to 12th September, 1953, on pages 32–42.

2. **Significant Dates.**—The following table furnishes index numbers for the six capital cities as a whole, for certain significant dates since November, 1914—the earliest date for which this index is available.

"C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX NUMBERS.

WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF SIX CAPITAL CITIES.

(*Base: Weighted average of Six Capital Cities*, 1923–27 = 1,000.)

1914, November	687	(Beginning of 1914–18 War)
1918, November	905	(End of 1914–18 War)
1920, November	1,166	(Post-War peak)
1922, November	975	(Post-War trough)
1929, Year	1,033	(Pre-Depression peak)
1933, Year	804	(Depression trough)
1939, September Quarter	916	(Pre-1939–45 War)
1943, March Quarter	1,123	(Pre-Price Stabilization)
1943, June Quarter	1,143	(1939–45 War peak)
1945, September Quarter	1,126	(End of 1939–45 War)
1948, September Quarter	1,311	
1950, September Quarter	1,572	
1952, September Quarter	2,238	
1953, September Quarter	2,321	
1954, September Quarter	2,321	
1955, September Quarter	(*a*)2,394	
1956, September Quarter	(*a*)2,511	
1958, September Quarter	(*a*)2,630	

(*a*) Excludes price movement of potatoes and onions. *See* paragraph 6 on page 15.

The index rose by approximately 32 per cent. during the 1914–18 War and by a further 29 per cent. in the two post-war years (November, 1918 to November, 1920). From November, 1920 to November, 1922, there was a fall of 16 per cent., and the index remained relatively stable until the onset of the depression in 1929. During the four years of the depression 1929 to 1933 the index fell by 22 per cent., rising thereafter steadily until 1939 when it was nearly 14 per cent. above the level of 1933, and approximately at the level it had occupied at the date of the Armistice of 1918. Between the outbreak of war (September, 1939) and March, 1943 (pre-price stabilization), the index rose by approximately 23 per cent. to a level slightly below that reached at the height of the post-war boom in 1920. Compared with that for the March Quarter, 1943, the index number at the close of the war was practically unchanged.

Immediately after the outbreak of the war, price control was established by the Government under Regulations dated 28th September, 1939, and a national policy of price stabilization was applied as from 12th April, 1943, backed by more stringent price control and price subsidies. The retail price level, as measured by the index, remained relatively steady throughout 1944 and 1945 at the level of March, 1943. This stabilized level was approximately 23 per cent. above that of 1939 and 63 per cent. above the level prevailing at the beginning of the 1914–18 War. After the June Quarter, 1946, war-time controls, subsidies, etc., were progressively modified and by early 1949 had been virtually eliminated. In the latter part of 1950, export prices (especially for wool) rose very substantially. In December, 1950, the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration raised the basic wage by approximately 14 per cent. Concurrently, public works expenditure and private investment rose to very high levels.

This retail price index rose by 16 per cent. in the three years following the end of the 1939–45 War (i.e., to the September Quarter, 1948) and by 77 per cent. in the next five years to the September Quarter, 1953, and remained relatively stable at that level until the end of 1954. Since then the index has risen each year and by the September Quarter, 1958 was approximately 13 per cent. higher than at the September Quarter, 1954. This level was approximately 187 per cent. above that of 1939.

An account of price control measures and of price stabilization in Australia was published in *Official Year Book* No. 37, pages 458–464, and No. 44, page 157.

3. **Tabular Statements of " C " Series Retail Price Index, Six Capital Cities, 1914 to 1958.**—" C " Series Retail Price index numbers are published as follows:—

Monthly.—The *Monthly Review of Business Statistics* contains annual and quarterly index numbers to the latest available date.

Quarterly.—Statements are issued about three weeks after the end of each quarter relating to the " C " Series Retail Price Index for that quarter and immediately preceding quarters. The *Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics* contains annual and quarterly index numbers to the latest available date. This publication also contains certain average prices of items of food and groceries for each month of the latest available quarter.

Annually.—A brief summary of index numbers appears in the Labour Report and in the *Official Year Book.*

The movement in the various groups of the index and in the index as a whole for each year for which it has been compiled is shown in the following table for the six capital cities combined:—

"C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX AND ITS "GROUP" INDEX NUMBERS(*a*) FOR THE SIX CAPITAL CITIES COMBINED.

(*Base of Each Group: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities,* 1923–27 = 1,000).

Period.	Food and Groceries.(*b*)		Rent (4 and 5 roomed Houses).(*c*)	Clothing.	Miscellaneous.	Total "C" Series Index.(*b*)	
1914(*d*) ..	641		649	754	749	687	
1915(*d*) ..	842		659	792	786	782	
1916(*d*) ..	812		665	881	802	795	
1917(*d*) ..	836		685	992	882	847	
1918(*d*) ..	861		722	1,097	972	905	
1919(*d*) ..	1,026		768	1,238	1,036	1,022	
1920(*d*) ..	1,209		851	1,365	1,194	1,166	
1921(*d*) ..	950		877	1,246	1,010	1,013	
1922(*d*) ..	945		929	1,052	999	975	
1923 ..	1,009		950	1,045	999	1,003	
1924 ..	969		988	1,003	1,004	987	
1925 ..	998		1,008	991	992	997	
1926 ..	1,023		1,026	986	998	1,011	
1927 ..	1,000		1,030	975	1,008	1,002	
1928 ..	985		1,066	997	1,010	1,009	
1929 ..	1,044		1,073	996	1,007	1,033	
1930 ..	941		1,047	951	999	975	
1931 ..	826		901	853	973	873	
1932 ..	796		817	804	958	830	
1933 ..	751		804	787	950	804	
1934 ..	783		810	785	944	817	
1935 ..	806		839	783	946	832	
1936 ..	825		879	792	947	850	
1937 ..	851		912	811	960	873	
1938 ..	886		942	829	961	897	
1939 ..	927		965	841	962	920	
1940 ..	939		973	956	998	957	
1941 ..	947		976	1,118	1,060	1,008	
1942 ..	1,031		976	1,308	1,112	1,091	
1943 ..	1,037		975	1,440	1,160	1,131	
1944 ..	1,026		976	1,435	1,165	1,126	
1945 ..	1,034		975	1,425	1,161	1,126	
1946 ..	1,036		976	1,505	1,167	1,145	
1947 ..	1,100		977	1,566	1,199	1,188	
1948 ..	1,256		979	1,744	1,257	1,295	
1949 ..	1,394		982	1,997	1,338	1,415	
1950 ..	1,566		987	2,286	1,435	1,560	
1951 ..	2,041		1,009	2,749	1,679	1,883	
1952 ..	2,526		1,057	3,096	1,958	2,196	
1953 ..	2,641		1,138	3,223	2,053	2,302	
1954 ..	2,671		1,192	3,218	2,062	2,326	
1955 ..	2,811		1,226	3,237	2,081	2,393	
	A	B				A	B
1956 ..	2,923	3,084	1,325	3,261	2,236	2,489	2,547
1957 ..	2,973	2,971	1,380	3,357	2,372	2,567	2,565
1958 ..	3,021	2,993	1,460	3,418	2,424	2,626	2,615

For footnotes *see* next page.

"C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX AND ITS "GROUP" INDEX NUMBERS(*a*) FOR THE SIX CAPITAL CITIES COMBINED—*continued.*

(*Base of Each Group: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities*, 1923–27 = 1,000.)

Period.	Food and Groceries. (*b*)		Rent (4 and 5 roomed Houses). (*c*)	Clothing.	Miscellaneous.	Total "C" Series Index.(*b*)	
Quarter—							
1939—September..	920		967	836	961	916	
1945—September..	1,040		975	1,415	1,161	1,126	
1949—March ..	1,361		981	1,849	1,304	1,364	
June ..	1,388		981	1,963	1,325	1,403	
September..	1,396		982	2,043	1,345	1,428	
December..	1,429		983	2,132	1,378	1,466	
1950—March ..	1,473		984	2,156	1,402	1,491	
June ..	1,520		986	2,261	1,413	1,534	
September..	1,582		987	2,316	1,432	1,572	
December..	1,689		989	2,410	1,492	1,643	
1951—March ..	1,790		1,004	2,487	1,564	1,713	
June ..	1,925		1,007	2,746	1,641	1,833	
September..	2,136		1,010	2,833	1,715	1,943	
December..	2,311		1,013	2,930	1,794	2,042	
1952—March ..	2,404		1,023	2,992	1,828	2,098	
June ..	2,567		1,041	3,099	1,949	2,206	
September..	2,592		1,070	3,115	2,018	2,238	
December..	2,542		1,094	3,177	2,035	2,243	
1953—March ..	2,572		1,122	3,200	2,048	2,268	
June ..	2,605		1,136	3,245	2,051	2,293	
September..	2,686		1,144	3,228	2,054	2,321	
December..	2,702		1,151	3,217	2,060	2,327	
1954—March ..	2,683		1,162	3,228	2,070	2,327	
June ..	2,670		1,191	3,212	2,061	2,324	
September..	2,654		1,205	3,210	2,058	2,321	
December..	2,677		1,209	3,222	2,060	2,333	
1955—March ..	2,730		1,213	3,218	2,046	2,349	
June ..	2,770		1,222	3,240	2,070	2,375	
	A	B				A	B
September..	2,810	2,854	1,232	3,243	2,081	2,394	2,411
December..	2,831	2,891	1,238	3,248	2,128	2,413	2,435
1956—March ..	2,851	2,926	1,310	3,243	2,137	2,437	2,465
June ..	2,922	3,054	1,320	3,248	2,212	2,480	2,528
September..	2,966	3,244	1,330	3,260	2,273	2,511	2,612
December..	2,954	3,111	1,339	3,292	2,320	2,526	2,583
1957—March ..	2,973	2,982	1,357	3,323	2,336	2,547	2,550
June ..	2,977	2,997	1,373	3,354	2,368	2,565	2,572
September..	2,987	2,975	1,389	3,365	2,387	2,578	2,574
December..	2,955	2,928	1,400	3,386	2,397	2,576	2,565
1958—March ..	3,012	2,988	1,412	3,393	2,399	2,601	2,592
June ..	3,018	2,982	1,455	3,424	2,400	2,620	2,607
September..	3,017	2,981	1,476	3,426	2,423	2,630	2,616
December..	3,037	3,022	1,495	3,429	2,475	2,652	2,646

(*a*) "Group" index numbers in the above table cannot be compared with each other in order to show the *relative cost* of Food and Groceries, Rent, Clothing or Miscellaneous requirements, since each "Group" has its own Base = 1,000, namely, the weighted average cost for the six capital cities as a whole during the five-year period 1923–27. (*b*) The index in column "A" excludes, and that in column "B" includes, the price movement of potatoes and onions. *See* paragraph 6 on page 15. (*c*) *Rent.* The rent index numbers shown in the tables in this Report measure the proportionate rise and fall in the average weekly rentals paid for houses of four and five rooms, taking corresponding houses throughout. They are "price" indexes in the strict sense, i.e., they are designed to measure only the "price" element in rent fluctuations. Rentals of new tenanted houses completed since the end of the 1939–45 War are not taken into account. (*d*) November.

A graph showing " C " Series retail price index numbers appears on page 33.

§ 6. International Comparisons: Retail Price Index Numbers.

A.—The following table shows the increases in retail prices in Australia and certain other countries since the quarter during which the 1939–45 War commenced. In this section, the index used for Australia is of necessity the " C " Series Retail Price Index. The figures show fluctuations in prices in each country, and do not measure relative price levels as between the various countries included.

RETAIL PRICE INDEX NUMBERS.

(FOOD, RENT, CLOTHING, MISCELLANEOUS HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE.)

(*Base: September Quarter*, 1939 = 100.)

Period.	Australia.(*a*)		United Kingdom.	Canada.	New Zealand.	Union of South Africa.	United States of America.
1939—							
September Quarter	100		100	100	100	100	100
1940—Year ..	105		119	105	104	104	100
1941— ,, ..	110		104	111	108	109	105
1942— ,, ..	119		129	116	111	118	116
1943— ,, ..	124		128	117	114	126	125
1944— ,, ..	123		129	118	116	130	123
1945— ,, ..	123		131	119	118	133	127
1946— ,, ..	125		131	123	119	135	138
			Base: 17.6.47 =100.(*b*)				
1947— ,, ..	130		102	134	122	141	158
1948— ,, ..	141		108	154	132	149	170
1949— ,, ..	155		111	(*c*)160	(*d*)134	154	168
1950— ,, ..	170		114	165	142	160	171
1951— ,, ..	206		124	183	157	172	185
1952— ,, ..	240		(*c*)136	186	170	187	189
1953— ,, ..	251		140	184	177	194	190
1954— ,, ..	254		143	185	186	197	191
1955— ,, ..	261		149	185	(*c*)190	204	191
	A	B					
1956— ,, ..	272	278	(*c*)157	188	197	207	193
1957— ,, ..	280	280	162	194	201	213	200
1958— ,, ..	287	286	167	199	210	221	205
1957—March Qtr. ..	278	278	160	192	198	210	197
June ,, ..	280	281	161	193	201	211	199
Sept. ,, ..	281	281	163	195	202	216	201
Dec. ,, ..	281	280	165	196	203	217	202
1958—March Qtr. ..	284	283	166	197	203	218	204
June ,, ..	286	285	168	199	205	220	205
Sept. ,, ..	287	286	166	199	215	222	206
Dec. ,, ..	290	289	168	201	216	223	206

(*a*) The index in column " A " excludes (from September Quarter, 1955) and, that in column " B " includes the price movement of potatoes and onions. *See* paragraph 6 on page 15. (*b*) New series cannot be linked to former series. (*c*) New series linked to former series. (*d*) Consumers' (Retail) Price Index from March Quarter, 1949, onwards. Index numbers for earlier periods (shown for purposes of comparison) are obtained by linking the movement in the Retail Price Index (Base: 1926–30) to the new index.

B.—The following tables give index numbers of retail prices for various countries. Except where otherwise noted, the average prices for the year 1953 are taken as base (= 100). The figures, which have been taken from the *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics* of the Statistical Office of the United Nations, show fluctuations in prices in each country, and do not measure relative price levels as between the various countries included.

INDEX NUMBERS OF RETAIL PRICES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

(Source: *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics* of the Statistical Office of the United Nations.)

(*Base:* 1953 = 100.)

FOOD, CLOTHING, RENT AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Period.	Argentina (Buenos Aires).	Australia.(a)	Belgium.(b)	Brazil (Sao Paulo).	Canada.	Denmark.(c)	France (Paris).	Germany (Western).	India.(b)	Ireland.(d)	Italy.
1950	51	68	91	62	89	87	77	93	95	81	..
1951	69	–82–	99	–67–	98	96	91	100	98	87	94
1952	96	96	100	82	101	100	101	102	97	95	98
1953	**100**	**100**	**–100–**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**–100–**
1954	104	101	101	118	101	101	100	100	95	100	103
1955	117	104	101	142	101	107	101	102	90	103	105
1956	132	110	104	173	102	113	103	105	99	107	109
1957	165	113	107	206	106	116	–106–	106	104	112	110
1958	217	115	108	237	108	117	122	110	109	117	113
1958—											
March Qtr. ..	180	114	108	221	107	116	119	110	104	115	112
June ,, ..	202	115	108	231	108	117	121	110	106	117	114
Sept. ,, ..	228	115	108	239	108	117	123	110	113	117	114
Dec. ,, ..	257	116	108	259	109	118	124	110	114	117	113

Period.	Japan.	Netherlands.	New Zealand.	Norway.	Pakistan (Karachi).	Philippines (Manila).	Sweden.	Switzerland.	Union of South Africa.(f)	United Kingdom.	United States of America.
1950	77	91	80	78	85	102	79	94	83	81	90
1951	–89–	99	89	90	88	111	92	98	89	89	97
1952	94	100	96	98	90	103	99	101	97	–97–	99
1953	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**–100–**
1954	106	104	105	104	98	99	*e*–101–	101	102	102	100
1955	105	106	–107–	105	94	98	104	102	105	106	100
1956	106	108	111	109	97	100	109	103	107	*g*–112–	102
1957	109	114	113	112	106	102	113	105	110	116	105
1958	108	117	118	118	110	105	119	107	114	119	108
1958—											
March Qtr. ..	108	117	115	114	111	104	118	106	113	118	107
June ,, ..	108	117	116	117	112	105	119	107	114	120	108
Sept. ,, ..	109	115	121	119	114	106	119	108	115	119	108
Dec. ,, ..	109	116	122	119	103	107	119	108	115	120	108

(*a*) This series includes potatoes and onions. *See* paragraph 6 on page 15. (*b*) Rent is not included. (*c*) Including direct taxes. (*d*) Base: August, 1953 = 100. (*e*) July–December. (*f*) Europeans only. Including direct taxes. (*g*) Linked at January, 1956.

NOTE.—Symbol – on each side of an index number (e.g., –95–) indicates that two series have been linked at that period. Symbol——between two index numbers indicates that it is not possible to link two series (because of change in scope, etc.) and therefore the index numbers are not comparable with each other even though they are shown on the same base period.

INDEX NUMBERS OF RETAIL PRICES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES—*continued.*

(*Base:* 1953 = 100.)

INDEX NUMBERS OF RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD.

Period.	Argentina (Buenos Aires).	Australia.(*a*)	Belgium.	Brazil (Sao Paulo).	Canada.	Denmark.	France (Paris).	Germany (Western).	India.	Indonesia (Djakarta).	Ireland.(*b*)
1950	49	59	90	55	91	85	80	89	93	53	78
1951	67	–76–	96	–57–	104	94	93	97	96	89	83
1952	97	95	99	74	104	100	102	102	94	94	92
1953	100	100	–100–	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	–100–
1954	99	101	103	119	100	104	98	102	93	106	100
1955	110	105	102	142	100	111	99	104	85	141	104
1956	125	113	104	175	101	116	101	106	97	161	105
1957	167	111	107	196	105	110	–103–	109	103	177	109
1958	230	112	108	220	108	112	121	112	109	258	119
1958—											
March Qtr. ..	186	112	108	205	107	110	118	112	102	254	117
June ,, ..	212	112	108	216	109	111	121	113	105	226	119
Sept. ,, ..	243	112	107	224	109	111	122	111	114	264	119
Dec. ,, ..	280	113	108	234	109	115	123	111	115	286	119

Period.	Italy.	Japan.	Netherlands.	New Zealand.	Norway.	Pakistan (Karachi).	Philippines (Manila).	Sweden.	Union of South Africa.(*d*)	United Kingdom.(*e*)	United States of America.
1950	..	79	89	74	74	84	103	74	76	113	90
1951	94	–91–	96	86	87	89	111	87	81	126	100
1952	98	94	99	94	99	93	106	98	95	95	102
1953	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	–100–
1954	104	108	104	105	108	98	99	(*c*)–100–	101	103	100
1955	106	105	106	–108–	108	95	98	105	104	110	98
1956	111	104	109	114	113	100	101	113	106	102	99
1957	111	108	115	113	113	113	105	115	110	105	102
1958	115	106	115	115	122	117	111	119	114	107	107
1958—											
March Qtr. ..	114	105	118	114	114	119	109	119	112	105	106
June ,, ..	116	106	118	115	121	119	109	120	114	110	108
Sept. ,, ..	116	107	114	116	126	123	113	120	115	107	107
Dec. ,, ..	114	107	113	116	126	108	113	119	114	108	106

(*a*) This series includes potatoes and onions. *See* paragraph 6 on page 15. (*b*) Base: August, 1953 = 100. (*c*) July–December. (*d*) Europeans only. (*e*) Prior to 1952, base: 1948 = 100; beginning 1956, base: January, 1956 = 100.

NOTE.—Symbol – on each side of an index number (e.g., –95–) indicates that two series have been linked at that period. Symbol ——— between two index numbers indicates that it is not possible to link two series (because of change in scope, etc.) and therefore the index numbers are not comparable with each other even though they are shown on the same base period.

CHAPTER II.—WHOLESALE PRICES AND PRICE INDEXES.

§ 1. General.

Two indexes of wholesale prices are compiled by the Bureau. These are: (i) The Melbourne Wholesale Price Index; and (ii) The Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index. Particulars of the Melbourne Wholesale Price Index, which is now obsolescent, are given in § 3 commencing on page 27 below.

After reviewing the list of items and weighting of the Melbourne Wholesale Price Index, the 1930 Conference of Statisticians resolved that a new index of wholesale prices of basic materials and foodstuffs should be compiled. This index—the Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index—which extends back to the year 1928 and is compiled monthly, is a special purpose index and one of a series of wholesale price indexes designed for special purposes.

§ 2. Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index.

1. **Price Quotations.**—The prices used in the index have in the main been obtained directly from manufacturers and merchants, and, with a few important exceptions, from Melbourne sources. Apart from locally-produced building materials and one or two minor commodities, however, the price movements may be taken as representative of variations in wholesale prices of basic materials in most Australian markets.

Commodities in the index are priced in their primary or basic form wherever possible and in respect of imported materials as nearly as may be at the point where they first make effective impact on the local price structure. Thus the price of imported goods is not taken at the time of import, but rather on an ex-bond (or into factory) basis.

Broadly, where home-consumption prices exist for local products, they have been used in this index. During the year 1950–51 wool for local manufacture was subsidized and the home-consumption price for wool was used to calculate the index numbers shown in the table on page 27.

2. **Commodities and Grouping.**—For purposes of this index "basic" materials (as opposed to certain of the foodstuffs) are commodities in the primary or basic forms in which they first enter into productive processes carried out in Australia. The list of items is divided into seven main groups, each of which is sub-divided into goods which are mainly imported, and goods which are mainly home-produced. A full list of these commodities is set out below, showing the quantity-multipliers (weights) for each commodity. The percentage of the total aggregate value in 1958 contributed by each group is also shown.

3. **Method of Construction.**—The index is constructed on the simple aggregative fixed-weights formula. The weights (quantity-multipliers) are based on estimates of the average annual consumption of the commodities in Australia during the period 1928–29 to 1934–35 inclusive. Changes in usage, changes of category as between "imported" and "home-produced" for some commodities, and changes in the industrial structure have affected the validity of some of the weights in the index.

During 1956, supplies and prices of potatoes and onions fluctuated violently upwards and downwards between abnormally wide limits. These fluctuations were so great as to dominate the movement of the sections of the index in which these items were included, namely, "Foodstuffs and Tobacco", "Goods Principally Home Produced" and "Total All Groups". In the circumstances of the case, neither seasonal adjustment nor conversion of the index to a

"changing weights" formula could be applied to eliminate these transient fluctuations. Accordingly, in order to provide a representative measure of general trend in wholesale prices, the index was reconstructed as from July, 1936 by omitting potatoes and onions.

Consideration is being given to the enlargement of the index to cover additional groups and to revision of the weighting pattern of the index.

WHOLESALE PRICE (BASIC MATERIALS AND FOODSTUFFS) INDEX.

LIST OF COMMODITIES, UNITS OF MEASUREMENT AND QUANTITY-MULTIPLIERS.

Commodity.	Unit.	Quantity-multiplier. (Weight.)
Metals and Coal—		
Principally Imported—		
Aluminium	ton	985
Principally Home-produced—		
Iron and steel	ton	637,000
Briquettes	ton	243,000
Copper, wire bars	ton	7,000
Coal	ton	9,300,000
Lead, soft pig	ton	10,400
Tin, ingots	ton	1,250
Zinc, ingots	ton	14,800
Oils, Fats and Waxes—		
Principally Imported—		
Coconut oil	ton	6,500
Fuel oil	ton	170,000
Linseed oil	gallon	2,250,000
Lubricating oil	gallon	3,960,000
Kerosene, power	gallon	21,000,000
Petrol	gallon	218,000,000
Principally Home-produced—		
Beeswax	lb.	169,112
Tallow	ton	26,000
Textiles—		
Principally Imported—		
Hemp	ton	5,575
Kapok	lb.	6,160,000
Jute fibre	ton	874
Phormium tenax	ton	2,275
Silk, raw	lb.	455,900
Principally Home-produced—		
Cotton, raw	lb.	15,900,000
Wool, greasy	lb.	50,200,000
Chemicals—		
Principally Imported—		
Ammonium sulphate	ton	23,830
Potash, muriate	ton	4,055
Potash, sulphate	ton	2,025
Soda ash	ton	21,400
Soda, nitrate	ton	1,100
Soda, nitrate—Chilean	ton	3,600
Sulphur	ton	95,500
Principally Home-produced—		
Arsenic	ton	1,531
Blood and bone	ton	34,431
Methylated spirits	gallon	2,374,000
Soda crystals	ton	4,986
Superphosphate	ton	704,144
Sulphuric acid	ton	226,450
Rubber and Hides—		
Principally Imported—		
Rubber, crude	lb.	24,214,400
Principally Home-produced—		
Calf skins	lb.	4,455,000
Cattle hides	lb.	57,246,000
Tanning bark	ton	23,000
Building Materials—		
Principally Imported—		
Timber, softwoods	1,000 sup. ft.	346,500
Turpentine	gallon	458,000
Principally Home-produced—		
Bricks	1,000	372,000
Cement	ton	479,000
Drain-pipes	foot	7,270,000
Glass, window	100 sq. ft.	82,370
Lime	ton	51,144
Plaster	ton	53,000
Timber, hardwoods	100 sup. ft.	2,575,000
White lead	cwt.	60,000
Whiting	cwt.	274,000
Foodstuffs and Tobacco(a)—		
Principally Imported—		
Tapioca	cwt.	754,860
Cocoa, raw	cwt.	104,460
Coffee	lb.	3,642,000
Tea	lb.	48,954,520
Mustard	doz. lb.	49,340
Herrings	doz. lb.	289,760
Sild	doz. 4-oz. tins	847,560
Tobacco, leaf	lb.	18,321,340
Principally Home-produced—		
Barley	bushel	5,185,260
Maize	bushel	330,640
Oats	bushel	15,713,240
Rice	cwt.	339,246
Wheat	bushel	41,880,980
Peas	bushel	675,980
Sugar	ton	352,682
Beef	100 lb.	7,352,520
Lamb	lb.	87,245,740
Mutton	lb.	458,081,320
Pork	lb.	49,923,380
Butter fat	lb.	204,156,640
Lard	lb.	1,497,840
Milk	gallon	167,838,800
Currants	lb.	10,391,520
Sultanas	lb.	18,893,700
Grapes	ton	98,668

(a) Includes weights transferred from deleted articles.

The percentage of the total aggregate value in 1958 contributed by each group was as follows:—Metals and coal, 18.03 per cent.; oils, fats and waxes, 9.14; textiles, 2.95; chemicals, 4.08; rubber and hides, 1.57; building materials, 11.09; foodstuffs and tobacco, 53.14. Goods principally imported comprised 25.61 per cent. of the total aggregate in 1958 and goods principally home-produced, 74.39 per cent.

4. Index Numbers.—Index numbers for each group of commodities and for all groups combined for the index of wholesale prices of basic materials and foodstuffs are given in the following table. Current index numbers, on the base: Average of three years ended June, 1939 = 100, are published monthly in the mimeographed statistical bulletin *Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index* and in the *Monthly Review of Business Statistics.*

WHOLESALE PRICE (BASIC MATERIALS AND FOODSTUFFS) INDEX NUMBERS.

(*Base of each Group: Year* 1928 = 100.)

Period.	Basic Materials.							Foodstuffs and Tobacco. (a)	Basic Materials and Foodstuffs.		
	Metals and Coal.	Oils, Fats and Waxes.	Textiles.	Chemicals.	Rubber and Hides.	Building Materials.	Total.		Goods principally Imported. (b)	Goods principally Home-produced. (a)	All Groups. (a)
1928	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
1929	100	102	83	98	77	98	98	107	101	103	103
1930	95	108	61	95	55	100	93	95	105	92	95
1931	89	109	57	98	58	101	92	81	111	79	87
1932	83	107	54	98	53	98	88	79	108	76	84
1933	82	88	62	95	56	100	83	78	101	75	81
1934	79	82	66	89	60	98	80	81	99	75	81
1935	74	88	62	82	59	97	79	85	103	76	83
1936	72	91	76	82	72	99	82	90	105	81	86
1937	79	95	87	82	89	110	91	95	113	86	92
1938	80	95	61	83	66	104	88	96	109	85	91
1939	81	97	65	84	76	105	90	92	111	83	90
1940	84	123	78	97	93	127	104	99	134	90	100
1941	88	134	82	106	98	137	112	105	156	91	107
1942	97	151	93	116	104	154	125	116	180	99	119
1943	103	160	110	118	106	181	135	121	199	102	126
1944	103	160	108	118	106	183	135	123	200	104	127
1945	103	153	108	117	106	184	133	127	198	106	129
1946	102	142	119	116	104	187	131	129	194	108	129
1947	107	142	165	116	94	194	137	137	202	114	136
1948	129	159	234	127	100	204	157	156	217	135	155
1949	160	166	254	138	96	213	175	172	225	154	172
1950	179	179	382	179	155	258	208	200	263	182	202
1951	235	196	475	229	248	327	261	242	299	232	248
1952	299	216	408	277	193	432	304	272	325	272	285
1953	307	217	467	279	154	394	301	286	307	285	291
1954	305	204	387	260	154	380	290	293	296	286	288
1955	314	203	341	259	228	411	298	304	312	294	298
1956	322	219	346	272	240	466	316	309	332	302	309
1957	317	227	363	286	221	486	322	308	339	302	311
1958	311	220	272	278	197	457	304	311	318	300	304
1958—											
January ..	315	223	305	286	210	481	314	302	331	296	304
February ..	313	223	312	286	206	481	313	303	330	297	305
March ..	313	223	290	286	210	481	312	306	330	298	306
April ..	311	222	279	285	209	481	310	305	330	296	304
May	309	222	276	285	199	441	303	313	318	301	305
June	310	223	278	285	192	441	303	315	318	302	306
July	310	218	278	270	189	441	300	315	313	302	305
August ..	310	218	257	270	185	441	298	321	313	305	307
September ..	310	218	257	270	185	453	300	319	310	306	307
October ..	310	218	245	270	184	454	299	313	309	302	304
November ..	310	219	247	270	192	446	299	309	310	299	301
December ..	307	218	242	270	202	440	297	305	309	295	298

(*a*) During 1956 these indexes were reconstructed from July, 1936 by excluding potatoes and onions. *See* para. 3 on page 25. (*b*) Represents only such imported commodities as are included in the Wholesale Price Index and does not measure changes in prices of all imports.

NOTE.—The figures given in this table are comparable in the vertical columns, but are not directly comparable horizontally.

§ 3. Melbourne Wholesale Price Index.

1. **General.**—An index of Melbourne wholesale prices was first computed in 1912. It relates chiefly to basic materials and foods weighted in accordance with consumption in the years immediately preceding that date. Neither the list of items nor the weighting has been varied. Consequently, the index is outmoded for current use and is a measure of variations in wholesale prices based on the weighting originally determined. It has some historic significance

as a measure of changes in the prices of its component items combined in the proportions in which they were in common use about the year 1910. It is now published on an annual basis for "All Groups" only and is used mainly as an approximate indication of long-term trends since the year 1861, for which it was first compiled. A description of the index and a list of the commodities included in it were published in Labour Report No. 38, 1949, pages 43–45.

2. **Index Numbers.**—Index numbers for each group of commodities, as well as for all groups combined, are shown in the following table:—

MELBOURNE WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX NUMBERS.

(*Base of each Group: Year* 1911 = 1,000.)

Year.	Metals and Coal.	Wool, Cotton, Leather, etc.	Agricultural Produce, etc.	Dairy Produce.	Groceries.	Meat.	Building Materials.	Chemicals.	All Groups.
1861 ..	1,438	1,381	1,583	1,008	1,963	..	1,070	2,030	1,538
1871 ..	1,096	1,257	1,236	864	1,586	..	1,044	1,409	1,229
1881 ..	1,178	1,115	1,012	935	1,421	..	1,091	1,587	1,121
1891 ..	895	847	1,024	995	1,032	888	780	1,194	945
1901 ..	1,061	774	928	1,029	1,048	1,345	841	917	974
1911 ..	**1,000**	**1,000**	**1,000**	**1,000**	**1,000**	**1,000**	**1,000**	**1,000**	**1,000**
1912 ..	1,021	991	1,370	1,206	1,052	1,357	1,057	978	1,170
1913 ..	1,046	1,070	1,097	1,054	1,024	1,252	1,128	995	1,188
1914 ..	1,099	1,032	1,207	1,137	1,021	1,507	1,081	1,253	1,149
1915 ..	1,284	1,017	2,162	1,530	1,133	2,435	1,275	1,528	1,604
1916 ..	1,695	1,423	1,208	1,485	1,322	2,515	1,491	1,760	1,504
1917 ..	2,129	2,008	1,157	1,423	1,343	2,403	1,884	2,171	1,662
1918 ..	2,416	2,360	1,444	1,454	1,422	2,385	2,686	3,225	1,934
1919 ..	2,121	2,363	1,987	1,651	1,514	2,342	2,852	2,896	2,055
1920 ..	2,302	2,625	2,460	2,213	1,920	3,279	3,226	2,834	2,483
1921 ..	2,173	1,361	1,767	2,000	1,977	2,158	2,733	2,303	1,903
1922 ..	1,941	1,681	1,628	1,648	1,869	1,787	2,005	1,965	1,758
1923 ..	1,826	2,148	1,778	1,840	1,746	2,579	2,024	1,933	1,944
1924 ..	1,835	2,418	1,647	1,655	1,721	2,223	1,814	1,806	1,885
1925 ..	1,851	1,966	1,796	1,636	1,723	2,212	1,711	1,790	1,844
1926 ..	1,938	1,582	2,001	1,784	1,730	1,931	1,664	1,816	1,832
1927 ..	1,962	1,650	1,826	1,823	1,724	2,111	1,623	1,866	1,817
1928 ..	1,912	1,781	1,726	1,751	1,707	2,015	1,744	1,923	1,792
1929 ..	1,912	1,555	1,793	1,854	1,689	2,245	1,755	1,943	1,803
1930 ..	1,867	1,127	1,484	1,627	1,666	2,024	1,875	1,982	1,596
1931 ..	1,826	1,040	1,121	1,398	1,794	1,512	2,025	2,166	1,429
1932 ..	1,736	998	1,230	1,304	1,766	1,351	2,043	2,127	1,411
1933 ..	1,713	1,118	1,175	1,194	1,714	1,485	2,061	2,105	1,409
1934 ..	1,660	1,261	1,288	1,274	1,735	1,540	2,015	2,017	1,471
1935 ..	1,602	1,217	1,344	1,325	1,729	1,508	1,964	1,996	1,469
1936 ..	1,566	1,330	1,480	1,351	1,731	1,684	1,969	1,997	1,543
1937 ..	1,772	1,406	1,604	1,451	1,750	1,678	2,430	2,006	1,656
1938 ..	1,746	1,051	1,789	1,549	1,747	1,871	2,238	2,059	1,662
1939 ..	1,758	1,101	1,820	1,557	1,752	1,710	2,220	2,075	1,665
1940 ..	1,854	1,361	1,567	1,567	1,784	1,882	2,890	2,298	1,713
1941 ..	1,960	1,402	1,721	1,554	1,883	1,776	3,138	2,527	1,796
1942 ..	2,146	1,507	1,900	1,665	1,938	2,312	3,409	2,437	1,977
1943 ..	2,272	1,945	1,964	1,716	1,939	2,366	3,764	2,442	2,117
1944 ..	2,278	1,967	2,052	1,721	1,949	2,470	3,768	2,442	2,159
1945 ..	2,270	1,960	2,259	1,726	1,967	2,560	3,770	2,527	2,228
1946 ..	2,262	2,062	1,951	1,722	1,977	2,589	3,772	2,614	2,162
1947 ..	2,390	2,690	2,019	1,763	2,174	2,748	3,800	2,843	2,360
1948 ..	2,829	3,619	2,383	2,104	2,435	2,976	4,631	3,180	2,824
1949 ..	3,502	3,966	2,876	2,309	2,558	3,356	4,611	3,221	3,191
1950 ..	3,902	5,464	3,155	2,459	2,829	4,616	(*a*) 5,567	3,263	3,816
1951 ..	5,080	7,943	4,512	2,930	2,850	6,438	(*a*) 7,074	3,294	5,098
1952 ..	6,481	7,365	5,038	4,024	3,455	6,289	(*a*) 9,338	3,723	5,647
1953 ..	6,615	6,950	4,958	4,533	3,767	6,303	(*a*) 8,519	4,691	(*b*) 5,631

(*a*) The list of items and weighting of the original Building Materials group of this index are outmoded in respect of recent years. The movement shown here for this group between 1949 and 1953 has been calculated in accordance with the movement occurring in the Building Materials group of the Basic Materials and Foodstuffs Index. (*b*) The "All Groups" index numbers for the years 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957 and 1958 were 5,384, 5,548, 5,916, 5,814 and 5,575 respectively.

NOTE.—The figures given in this table are comparable in the vertical columns, but are not directly comparable horizontally.

§ 4. International Comparisons: Wholesale Price Index Numbers.

The following table gives index numbers of wholesale prices during the period 1950 to December, 1958 for Australia and other countries. Except where otherwise noted, the average prices in each country for the year 1953 are taken as base (= 100). The figures, which have been taken from the *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics* published by the Statistical Office of the United Nations, show fluctuations in prices in each country, and do not measure relative price levels as between the various countries included.

INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

(Source: *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics* of the Statistical Office of the United Nations.)
(*Base:* 1953 = 100.)

Period.	Australia.	Belgium.	Brazil.	Canada.	Denmark.	France.	Germany (Western).	India.(*a*)	Indonesia (Djakarta).(*b*)	Ireland.
1950	69	93	66	96	86	78	85	101	72	82
1951	85	113	79	109	109	100	100	110	99	95
1952	98	107	87	102	107	105	103	97	94	100
1953	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	–100–	100	(*c*)100
1954	99	99	130	98	100	98	98	94	109	98
1955	102	101	147	99	–103–	98	101	87	145	101
1956	106	104	176	102	106	102	103	97	135	101
1957	107	106	197	103	106	108	105	103	160	108
1958	105	102	(*e*)	103	105	121	106	105	(*e*)	113
1958—										
March Qtr.	105	104	203	103	105	120	106	100	205	111
June ,, ...	105	102	210	103	104	122	106	103	226	113
Sept. ,, ...	106	100	223	103	105	120	106	110	(*e*)	113
Dec. ,, ...	103	100	(*e*)	104	105	120	106	108	(*e*)	112

Period.	Italy.	Japan (Tokyo).	Netherlands.	New Zealand.	Norway.	Philippines (Manila).	Sweden.	Union of South Africa.	United Kingdom.(*d*)	United States of America.
1950	93	70	87	78	76	98	76	76	..	94
1951	106	97	107	91	94	110	100	86	..	104
1952	100	100	104	101	–101–	101	106	99	..	101
1953	–100–	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	..	100
1954	99	99	101	99	102	95	99	101	100	100
1955	100	98	102	100	104	92	103	104	103	101
1956	102	102	104	104	109	95	108	105	107	104
1957	103	105	107	105	113	99	110	107	107	107
1958	101	98	105	108	111	103	107	107	101	108
1958—										
March Qtr.	102	100	106	105	111	103	108	107	100	108
June ,, ...	102	99	105	106	111	103	107	107	101	108
Sept. ,, ...	100	97	102	111	111	103	107	107	101	108
Dec. ,, ...	99	97	106	112	112	102	107	108	101	108

(*a*) Base: April-December, 1953 = 100. (*b*) Imported goods. (*c*) Home-produced goods only. (*d*) Basic materials and fuel—Base: 1954 = 100. (*e*) Not available.

NOTE.—The symbol – on each side of an index number (e.g., –95–) indicates that two series have been linked at that period. The symbol ——— between two index numbers indicates that it is not possible to link two series (because of change in scope, etc.) and therefore the index numbers are not comparable with each other even though they are shown on the same base period.

CHAPTER III.—WAGES AND HOURS.

§ 1. Arbitration and Wages Boards Acts and Associated Legislation.

1. **General.**—Particulars regarding the operation of Commonwealth and State Acts for the regulation of wages, hours and conditions of labour were first compiled for the year 1913 and revised particulars have appeared annually in each issue of the Labour Report.

2. **Laws Regulating Industrial Matters.**—The principal Acts in force regulating rates of wage, hours of labour and working conditions generally in both Commonwealth and State jurisdictions at the end of 1958 are listed below:—

COMMONWEALTH.

Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1904–1958.
Public Service Arbitration Act 1920–1957.
Coal Industry Act 1946–1958.
Stevedoring Industry Act 1949–1957.
Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Power Act 1949–1958.
Navigation Act 1912–1958.

STATES.

New South Wales ..	Industrial Arbitration Act, 1940–1958. Coal Industry Act, 1946–1957.
Victoria	Labour and Industry Acts 1953–1957.
Queensland ..	Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Acts, 1932 to 1958.
South Australia ..	Industrial Code, 1920–1958.
Western Australia ..	Industrial Arbitration Act, 1912–1952. Mining Act, 1904–1955. Long Service Leave Act, 1958.
Tasmania	Wages Boards Act 1920–1951.

3. **Methods of Administration.**—(i) *Commonwealth—(a) Conciliation and Arbitration Act.*—Under placitum (xxxv.) of section 51 of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution, the Commonwealth Parliament is empowered to make laws with respect to " conciliation and arbitration for the prevention and settlement of industrial disputes extending beyond the limits of any one State ". The Parliament has made such a law, namely, the Conciliation and Arbitration Act.

This Act defines " an industrial dispute " as " (*a*) a dispute (including a threatened, impending or probable dispute) as to industrial matters which extends beyond the limits of any one State ; and (*b*) a situation which is likely to give rise to a dispute as to industrial matters which so extends; and includes (*c*) such a dispute in relation to employment in an industry carried on by, or under the control of, a State or an Authority of a State; (*d*) a dispute in relation to employment in an industry carried on by, or under the control of, the Commonwealth or an Authority of the Commonwealth, whether or not the dispute extends beyond the limits of any one State; and (*e*) a claim which an organization is entitled to submit to the Commission [*see* page 35] under section eleven A of the *Public Service Arbitration Act* 1920–1957 or an application or matter which the Public Service Arbitrator has refrained from hearing, or from

further hearing, or from determining under section fourteen A of that Act, whether or not there exists in relation to the claim, application or matter a dispute as to industrial matters which extends beyond the limits of any one State ".

The Conciliation and Arbitration Act was extensively amended by an Act (No. 44 of 1956) assented to on 30th June, 1956. This amendment altered the structure of the arbitration machinery by separating the judicial functions from the conciliation and arbitration functions. The Commonwealth Industrial Court was established to deal with judicial matters under the Act and the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission to handle the functions of conciliation and arbitration. Further amendments were made by Act No. 103 of 1956 and Act No. 30 of 1958 (assented to on 21st May, 1958). A summary of the provisions of the Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1904–1958 is given in the following paragraphs.

(*b*) *The Commonwealth Industrial Court.*—The Commonwealth Industrial Court is composed of a Chief Judge and not more than two other Judges and the Act provides that the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth Industrial Court shall be exercised by not less than two Judges except in the following circumstances. A single Judge may exercise the jurisdiction of the Court with respect to a dismissal or injury of an employee on account of industrial action, interpretation of awards, questions concerning eligibility of membership of an organization, disputes between an organization and its members and a prescribed matter of practice or procedure. A single Judge may refer a question of law for the opinion of the Court constituted by not less than two Judges. The Court is a Superior Court of Record with the same power to punish contempts of its power and authority as is possessed by the High Court in respect of contempts of the High Court. In general, decisions of the Industrial Court are final; however, an appeal lies to the High Court, but only when the latter grants leave to appeal. Provision is made for the registration of employer and employee associations. In matters involving disputed elections in organizations, the Court may direct the Registrar to make investigations, and if necessary order a new election. The Act also provides for the Commission to exercise the powers of the Court with regard to an application for cancellation of registration of an organization. Any such change of jurisdiction must be notified by proclamation. This provision could be used if the powers of the Court in this regard were declared, in whole or in part, to be invalid.

Special provision is made concerning the right of audience before the Commonwealth Industrial Court. Briefly, except in proceedings which, in general, involve questions of law or offences against the Act, parties are able to elect whether to appear personally or to be represented by lawyers or officials. Even in proceedings involving questions of law, except appeals from decisions by other Courts to the Industrial Court on matters arising under this Act or the Public Service Arbitration Act 1920–1957, the parties may, if they wish and the Court grants leave, be represented by officials.

(*c*) *The Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission.*—The Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission is composed of a President, not less than two Deputy Presidents, a Senior Commissioner, not less than five Commissioners and a number of Conciliators. The presidential members of the Commission must have been solicitors or barristers of the High Court or of the Supreme Court of a State of not less than five years' standing or Judges of the previously existing Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.

The Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission is empowered to prevent or settle industrial disputes by conciliation or arbitration, and to make suggestions and to do such things as appear right and proper for (*a*) effecting a reconciliation between the parties to industrial disputes; (*b*) preventing and settling industrial disputes by amicable agreement; and (*c*) preventing and settling, by conciliation or arbitration, industrial disputes not prevented or settled by amicable agreement. The Commission may exercise its powers of its own motion or on the application of a party.

The President may assign a Commissioner to deal with industrial disputes relating to particular industries, or members of the Commission to deal with a particular industrial dispute. However, subject to the approval of the President, it is the duty of the Senior Commissioner to organize and allocate the work of the Commissioners and Conciliators.

When an industrial dispute occurs or is likely to occur, the Act provides that a Commissioner shall take steps for the prompt prevention or settlement of that dispute by conciliation, or, if in his opinion conciliation is unlikely to succeed or has failed, by arbitration. A Commissioner may arrange with the Senior Commissioner for a Conciliator to assist the parties to reach an amicable agreement and shall do so if the parties so request. If an agreement is reached, a memorandum of its terms shall be made in writing, and may be certified by the Commission. A certified memorandum shall have the same effect as an award.

The Commission in Presidential Session, that is, the Commission constituted by at least three presidential members nominated by the President, and not otherwise, is empowered to deal with making awards, or certifying agreements, in so far as they concern standard hours, basic wages and long service leave.

Upon application by a party to an industrial dispute, a Commissioner shall consult with the President as to whether, in the public interest, the dispute should be dealt with by a Commission constituted by not less than three members nominated by the President, at least one of whom shall be a presidential member and one, where practicable, the Commissioner concerned. The President may direct the Commission to hear the dispute; however, after consideration, the Commission may refer the dispute back for determination to the Commissioner originally dealing with the dispute.

An appeal against the decision of a Commissioner shall be heard by not less than three members nominated by the President, of whom at least two are presidential members of the Commission. However, an appeal will not be heard unless the Commission considers it is necessary as a matter of public interest.

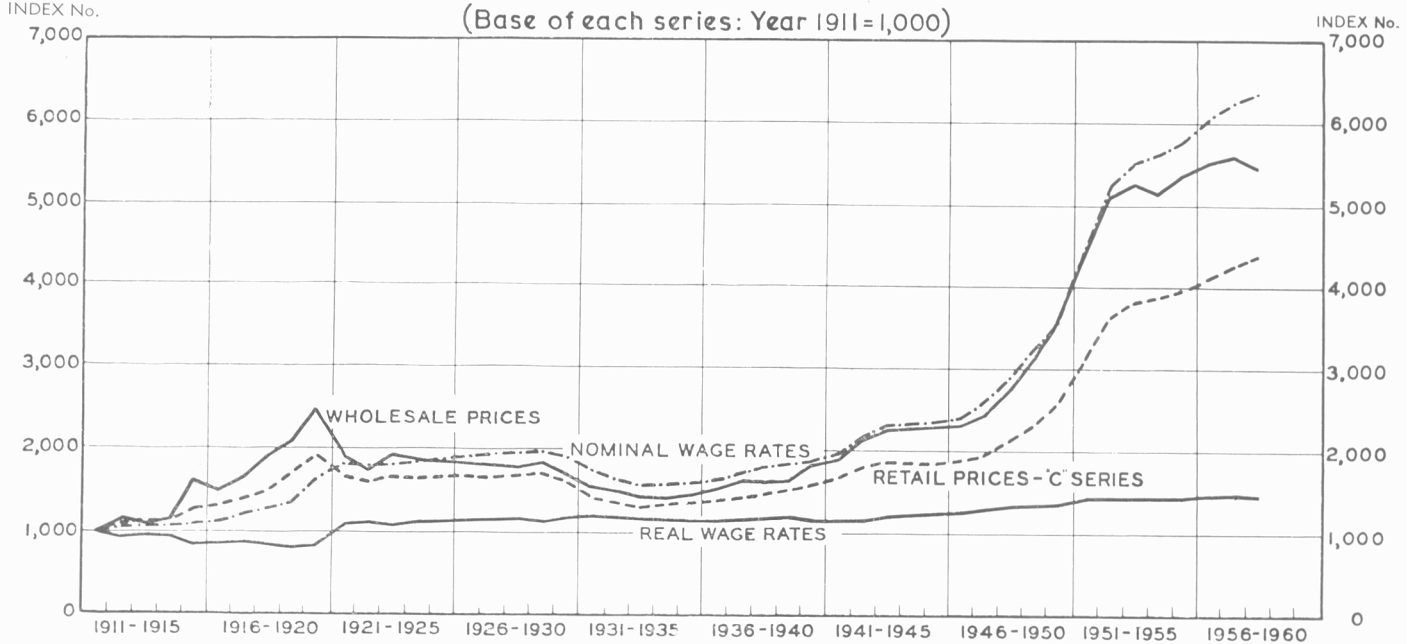
Provision is also made in the Act for a presidential member of the Commission to handle industrial matters in connexion with the Maritime Industries, Snowy Mountains Area and Stevedoring Industry, except in those matters for which the Act requires that the Commission shall be constituted by more than one member.

The Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission also deals with disputes and industrial matters, interstate or intra-State, associated with undertakings or projects of the Commonwealth Government which have been declared by the Minister to be Commonwealth projects for the purposes of this Act. In effect, this places employees of Commonwealth projects, so declared, under the jurisdiction of the Commission. The Commission may also make an award in relation to an industrial dispute involving such employees. The Minister has the power to exempt certain persons or classes of persons working on these projects from the jurisdiction of the Commission.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL PRICES; NOMINAL AND REAL WAGE RATES

INDEX NUMBERS, AUSTRALIA, 1911 TO 1958

(Base of each series: Year 1911=1,000)



NOTE.—Index numbers in this graph are for the six capital cities as a whole, except for those for wholesale prices up to December quarter, 1927, which are for Melbourne. The wholesale prices graph shows the trend of prices according to the "old" Melbourne Index up to December quarter, 1927, but thereafter, this index having been "spliced" with the Basic Materials and Foodstuffs Index, the curve moves in accordance with the variations of the latter. The price quotations for this index are, in the main, obtained from Melbourne sources, but their movements may be taken as representative of fluctuations in most Australian markets. For the period 1911–1914 the "C" Series index numbers are taken back from the true base (November, 1914 = 1,000) by means of the "A" Series Index Food and Rent of All Houses). From September quarter, 1955 these "C" Series index numbers exclude the price movement of potatoes and onions. *See* para. 6, p. 15. Real wage rates are computed on the basis of the "C" Series Retail Price Index.

The Commission may make an award in relation to an industrial dispute when the Public Service Arbitrator refrains from dealing with claims made by a Public Service employee organization or consents to the claims being presented to the Commission, though such an award may be inconsistent with a law of the Commonwealth relating to salaries, wages, rates of pay or terms or conditions of service of employees in the Public Service as defined by section three of the Public Service Arbitration Act 1920–1957, not being the Commonwealth Employees Compensation Act 1930–1956, the Commonwealth Employees' Furlough Act 1943–1953, the Superannuation Act 1922–1957 or any other prescribed Act.

The Act provides that where a State law, or an order, award, decision or determination of a State industrial authority is inconsistent with or deals with a matter dealt with in an award of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission, the latter shall prevail, and the former, to the extent of the inconsistency or in relation to the matter dealt with, shall be invalid.

(*d*) *Coal Industry Tribunal.*—The Coal Industry Tribunal was established under the Commonwealth Coal Industry Act 1946 and the New South Wales Coal Industry Act, 1946 to consider and determine interstate disputes and, in respect of New South Wales only, intra-State disputes between the Australian Coal and Shale Employees' Federation and employers in the coal-mining industry.

Special war-time bodies were created to deal with specific aspects of the coal industry, reference to which was made in earlier issues of the Labour Report (*see* No. 41, page 53). Under amending legislation passed jointly by the Commonwealth and New South Wales Parliaments in 1951, the Tribunal was vested with authority to deal with all interstate industrial disputes in the coal-mining industry, irrespective of the trade union involved, and, in the case of New South Wales, intra-State disputes also. The Tribunal consists of one person, who may appoint two assessors nominated by the parties to advise him in matters relating to any dispute. Subsidiary authorities are the Local Coal Authorities and Mine Conciliation Committees, who may be appointed to assist in the prevention and settlement of certain disputes. An amendment to the Commonwealth Coal Industry Act, passed in 1952, makes it obligatory for the Tribunal to use conciliation and arbitration to settle industrial disputes.

(*e*) *Commonwealth Public Service Arbitrator.*—Wages, hours of labour and working conditions in the Commonwealth Public Service are regulated by the Commonwealth Public Service Arbitrator, under powers conferred by the Public Service Arbitration Act 1920–1957. The system of arbitration commenced to operate in 1912, cases being heard by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration as part of the ordinary work of that Court. From 1920, however, the control was transferred to the Arbitrator, who is appointed by the Government for a term of seven years, and who need not necessarily have legal qualifications. In 1952 amending legislation made provision for reference of matters of general importance to the Full Court of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration and also for appeals from decisions of the Arbitrator.

Amending legislation, assented to on 15th November, 1956, provided that an organization of employees in the Public Service may submit a claim to the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission with the consent of the Public Service Arbitrator or where the Arbitrator has, other than on the grounds of triviality, refrained from hearing or determining the claim. The amending legislation also provided that appeals from decisions of the Arbitrator may be made to the Commission.

(*f*) *Australian Capital Territory Industrial Board.*—The regulation of industrial matters in the Australian Capital Territory under a local Industrial Board commenced in the year 1922. However, an amending Ordinance, gazetted on 19th May, 1949, abolished the Board and transferred its functions to authorities established by the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act. A separate Registry of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration was established in Canberra and a Commissioner was assigned to the Australian Capital Territory.

The amendment to Commonwealth industrial legislation introduced in June, 1956 made little practical change in the day-to-day industrial administration of the Australian Capital Territory. In effect, the Conciliation Commissioner of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration became the Commissioner for the Australian Capital Territory under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission. In addition, the Industrial Court and the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission replaced the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in those matters outside the jurisdiction of the Commissioner.

Details of the provisions relating to the Board during its period of jurisdiction may be found in issues of the Labour Report prior to No. 37 (*see* No. 36, p. 51).

(ii) *States*—(*a*) *New South Wales.*—The controlling authority is the Industrial Commission of New South Wales, consisting of a President and five other Judges. Subsidiary tribunals are the Conciliation Commissioners, the Apprenticeship Commissioner, Conciliation Committees and Apprenticeship Councils constituted for particular industries. Each Conciliation Committee consists of a Conciliation Commissioner as Chairman and equal numbers of representatives of employers and employees. The Apprenticeship Commissioner and the members of the Conciliation Committee for an industry constitute the Apprenticeship Council for the industry. These subsidiary tribunals may make awards binding on industries, but an appeal to the Industrial Commission may be made against any award. Special Commissioners with conciliatory powers only may be appointed. Compulsory control commenced in 1901, after the earlier Acts of 1892 and 1899 providing for voluntary submission of matters in dispute had proved abortive.

(*b*) *Victoria.*—The authorities are separate Wages Boards for the occupations and industries covered, each consisting of a chairman and equal numbers of representatives of employers and employees, and a Court of Industrial Appeals, the latter presided over by a Judge of the County Court. The system was instituted in the State in 1896, and represented the first example in Australia of legal regulation of wage rates.

(*c*) *Queensland.*—The authority is the Industrial Court, consisting of a Judge of the Supreme Court and not more than four members appointed by the Governor in Council. Legal control was first instituted in 1907 with the passing of the Wages Board Act.

(*d*) *South Australia.*—The principal tribunal is the Industrial Court, composed of the President (a person eligible for appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court) who may be joined by two assessors employed in the industry concerned; also Deputy Presidents may be appointed. There are also Industrial Boards, for the various industries, consisting of a chairman and equal numbers of representatives of employers and employees. Another tribunal provided for under the Industrial Code is the Board of Industry, composed of a President, who shall be the President or a Deputy President of the Industrial

Court, and four Commissioners. Broadly speaking, the functions of these three tribunals are:—(i) the Industrial Court delivers awards concerning workers who do not come under the jurisdiction of the Industrial Boards and hears appeals from decisions of Industrial Boards; (ii) the determinations of the Industrial Boards apply to most industries in the metropolitan area; however, for employees of the Public Service, Railways and councils of a municipality or district, determinations of Industrial Boards apply to the whole of the State; (iii) the Board of Industry declares the " living wage ".

(*e*) *Western Australia.*—The system of control comprises an Arbitration Court, Industrial Boards, Conciliation Committees and a Conciliation Commissioner. Employers and employees are equally represented on both Boards and Committees. The Court consists of a Judge of the Supreme Court and two members. Commissioners may also be appointed by the Minister for the settlement of particular disputes. Legal control dates back to 1900.

Since 1949, legislation has provided for the appointment of a Western Australian Coal Industry Tribunal to settle intra-State disputes in the coal-mining industry in Western Australia. It was not, however, until April, 1952, that persons were appointed to the Tribunal. The Tribunal consists of a Chairman and four other members (two representatives each of employers and employees). Boards of reference may be appointed by the Tribunal and decisions of the Tribunal may be reviewed by the President of the Arbitration Court.

(*f*) *Tasmania.*—The authority consists of Wages Boards for separate industries, comprising a Chairman (who is common to all Wages Boards), appointed by the Governor, and equal numbers of representatives of employers and workers, appointed by the Minister administering the Act. The system was instituted in 1910.

4. **Awards, Determinations, and Agreements in Force.**—In each issue of the Labour Report from 1913–14 to 1947 (Reports Nos. 5–36), statistics were published of the number of awards and determinations made and industrial agreements filed, excluding variations, in each State and under Commonwealth legislation dealing with these matters. Statistics were also published, up to and including 1939, showing the number of awards, determinations and industrial agreements in force at the end of each year. These details are not now published because of the difficulty of obtaining precise data. One of the reasons for this decision is explained in the following paragraph.

It is difficult to establish the exact number of industrial awards and registered industrial agreements in force at the end of any period, because awards and determinations made by both State and Commonwealth tribunals generally continue in force, after the term of operation mentioned therein has expired, until rescinded or superseded by a subsequent order or award. Section 58 (2) of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act provides that, after the expiration of the period specified, the award shall, unless the Commission otherwise orders, continue in force until a new award has been made; provided that, where in pursuance of this sub-section an award has continued in force after the expiration of the period specified in the award, any award made by the Commission for the settlement of a new industrial dispute between the parties may be made to operate from a date not earlier than the date upon which the dispute arose. Similar provisions are in force in the Industrial Code of South Australia, section 47 (2), and in legislation for other States. All industrial agreements continue in force after the expiration of the term mentioned until

rescinded or superseded by a subsequent agreement or order. The Tasmanian Wages Boards Act 1934 repealed Part IV. of the Principal Act providing for industrial agreements and all such agreements ceased to operate from the commencement of the Act unless an agreement existed in a trade to which no determination of a Board was applicable, in which case the agreement remained in force until its expiry or until a determination was made.

5. **New Legislation and Special Reports.**—Information concerning the main provisions of various Industrial Acts in force throughout Australia was given in earlier Reports, and brief reviews are furnished in each issue of the more important aspects of new industrial legislation having special application to the terms of awards or determinations. The year 1958 is covered in this issue.

(i) *Commonwealth.*—The Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1904–1956 was amended by Act No. 30 of 1958, which was assented to on 21st May, 1958, and became operative as from that date.

The amending Act redefined a Presidential Session of the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission as one in which the Commission is constituted by at least three presidential members nominated by the President. It provided for the appointment, when a presidential member is, or is expected to be, absent from duty, of an acting Deputy President for a period coinciding with the period of absence or extending beyond it. The President was empowered to summon conferences of members of the Commission whenever he considered it was desirable to do so, but not less frequently than once a year. Members of the Commission were given, in performing their duties, the same protection and immunity as Judges of the Commonwealth Industrial Court.

Provisions were added under which the Registrar may refer a matter, or a question (other than a question of law) arising in connexion with a matter, before him to the Commission for decision, and the Commission may grant leave to appeal to it from an act or decision of the Registrar in relation to a matter, and may hear and determine an appeal in respect of which leave is so granted. This latter power had previously been held by the Court. The power to grant leave to an organization to alter its rules to enable it to comply with prescribed conditions or to remove a ground of objection was transferred from the Court to the Registrar.

The section of the Act under which the Court had power to disallow the rules of an organization upon its own motion or upon application from a member of the organization was replaced by a new section setting out requirements as to the rules of an organization and the right of a member to apply to the Court for an order that the whole or part of a rule contravened the requirements specified in the Act. The Court was given power to declare such a rule, or part of it, void.

The section dealing with an application by any organization or person interested, or by the Registrar, for cancellation of registration of an organization was replaced by a new section which clarified the judicial nature of the powers of the Court in this regard, and gave the Registrar authority to cancel the registration of an organization which is not entitled to be registered under the Act, or which requests that its registration be cancelled. It also provided for the Commission to exercise the powers of the Court under this section upon the issue of a proclamation notifying this change of jurisdiction. This provision could be used if the powers of the Court in this regard were declared, in whole or in part, to be invalid.

The functions and powers of the Court in relation to disputed elections in organizations were amended, enabling it to direct the Registrar to make arrangements for any step to be taken again in completed or uncompleted elections, and for the completion of an election. The Registrar is to make arrangements with the Chief Electoral Officer of the Commonwealth with regard to such steps.

(ii) *New South Wales.*—(*a*) The Industrial Arbitration Act was amended by the Industrial Arbitration (Female Rates) Amendment Act (No. 42, 1958) which became operative on 1st January, 1959.

The Act defined the existing basic wage for adult females as being 75 per cent. of the male basic wage, notwithstanding anything contained in the 1950 judgment of the Industrial Commission of New South Wales (*see* page 89), and the Commission shall, upon application, or may, of its own motion, vary existing awards or industrial agreements to give effect to this definition. Such a variation is not to prescribe a wage rate less than the sum of the newly defined basic wage plus the marginal or secondary amounts applicable immediately prior to this variation, or more than the wage payable to adult males performing similar work.

Upon application the Commission or a Conciliation Committee shall include in awards and industrial agreements provision for equal pay between the sexes. Where the Commission or Committee is satisfied that conditions of work are comparable, in terms described in the Act, between males and females, they shall prescribe the same marginal or secondary rates of wage. As from 1st January, 1959 the basic wage for these adult females shall be 80 per cent. of the appropriate basic wage for adult males and thereafter shall be increased annually by 5 per cent., so that on 1st January, 1963 the basic wage will be the same as that for adult males. When provision for equal pay is prescribed during 1959 and succeeding years, the basic wage will be the same as if the provision had been made applicable in 1959 and increased annually. The provisions for equal pay do not apply to persons engaged on work essentially or usually performed by females, but upon which males may also be employed.

(*b*) The Annual Holidays Act, 1944 was amended by Act No. 28, 1958 which was assented to on 24th November, 1958.

The amending Act increases annual holidays with pay from two to three weeks for workers not covered by Commonwealth awards, and those not entitled to holidays more favourable than prescribed by the Act.

Where any year of employment ends before 31st December, 1959, the annual holiday shall be two weeks plus a pro rata proportion of one week. Thereafter the annual holiday shall be three weeks.

(iii) *Victoria.*—No major amendments were made to the Labour and Industry Acts during the period under review.

(iv) *Queensland.*—The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act was amended by Act No. 58 of 1958, which was assented to on 12th December, 1958. The amending Act authorized the Industrial Court to refuse to hear a matter with respect to an award when any employees to whom it applies are involved in an industrial dispute or are contravening the provisions of the Act or an award or decision of the Court. It extended the definition of continuous service in relation to long service leave entitlement to include a period during which an employee is lent, hired or transferred by one employer to another. The section giving an award of the Court the force of law for a specified period

not exceeding six months was replaced by a new section providing that an award shall have the force of law without limit of time and authorizing the Court to make and vary an award at any time.

Provisions were added under which an organization is not to be registered unless the Registrar is satisfied that its rules relating to an election for an office therein provide for a secret ballot conducted under conditions prescribed in the Act.

A new Part relating to disputed elections in industrial unions registered under the Act was inserted by the amending Act. Its provisions differ from those in the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, on which it is based, mainly in that the time within which an application for an inquiry must be lodged is specified in the Act as six months after the completion of the election, and that a request to the Registrar for an officially conducted election can be made by either the committee of management of a union (or branch of a union) or 10 per cent. of the members.

(v) *South Australia.*—The Holidays Act Amendment Act (No. 29 of 1958), amending the Holidays Act, 1910–1947, was assented to on 13th November, 1958. It provides that trading banks shall remain open until 5 p.m. on every Friday which is not a bank holiday, and that Saturdays shall be bank holidays. The amending Act is to be brought into operation by proclamation, and if, subsequently, arrangements enabling the change in trading hours cease to operate, it may be proclaimed to have no effect.

(vi) *Western Australia.*—(*a*) On 1st April, 1958 an agreement providing long service leave for employees was registered by the Western Australian Court of Arbitration. This agreement between various unions and private employers prescribed the terms and conditions, under which long service leave would be granted, to be incorporated in a large number of awards of, and industrial agreements registered with, the Court. It provides that an employee who has completed 20 years of continuous service with his employer shall be entitled to 13 weeks leave with pay (service prior to 20 years before the date of the agreement to be disregarded), and 6½ weeks for each subsequent 10 years service. In general, entitlement to long service leave accrues after 10 years service in the case of termination of employment, and leave for subsequent shorter periods of service is calculated on a pro rata basis.

Payment in lieu of leave is not permissible except at termination of employment, and a worker is not to take other employment while on leave. An employer is entitled to offset long service leave payments against payments by him to any other long service leave scheme, superannuation scheme, etc., or other similar provision for his employees operative at 1st April, 1958.

(*b*) The Long Service Leave Act (No. 44 of 1958) was assented to on 12th December, 1958 and became operative on 24th December, 1958. Its terms and conditions for granting long service leave to employees are similar to those in the above agreement. The Act does not cover those persons whose employment is regulated under the Industrial Arbitration Act 1912–1952, and certain other employees—principally Western Australian Crown employees.

(vii) *Tasmania.*—The Wages Boards Act 1920–1951 was not amended in 1958.

(viii) *Australian Capital Territory.*—There was no special industrial legislation affecting only the Australian Capital Territory passed in 1958.

§ 2. Rates of Wage and Hours of Labour.

1. **General.**—The collection of data for nominal rates of wage payable in different callings and in occupations in various industries carried on in each State was first undertaken by this Bureau in the early part of the year 1913. Owing to the difficulty of obtaining reliable particulars of the numbers of apprentices, improvers and other juvenile workers to whom progressive rates of wage fixed according to increasing age or experience were payable from year to year, the inquiry was confined to the rates of wage payable to adult workers only, and was further limited generally to those industries in operation within the metropolitan area of each State. In order to make the inquiry comprehensive, however, certain industries were included which were not carried on in the capital cities, e.g., mining, shipping, agriculture and the pastoral industry. The particulars acquired were obtained primarily from awards, determinations and industrial agreements under Commonwealth and State Acts, and related to the minimum wage prescribed. In those cases where no award, determination or agreement was in force, the ruling union or predominant rate of wage was ascertained from employers and secretaries of trade unions. For convenience of comparison weekly rates of wage were adopted. In many instances, however, the wages were based on daily or hourly rates, since in many industries and occupations in which employment is casual or intermittent, wages are so fixed; hence the average weekly earnings in such occupations may fall short of the computed weekly rates. The information thus obtained referred to the weekly rate of wage in upwards of 400 specific occupations. Rates of wage were of course not available for each of these occupations in every State but the aggregate collection for the six States amounted to 1,569 male occupations or callings. These particulars furnished the necessary data for the computation of average rates of wage in various industrial groups* and in each State and Australia as a whole. The average rate of wage for each industrial group in each State was computed by taking the arithmetical average† of the rates of wage payable for all classified occupations within that group. A more detailed system of weighting could not be applied owing to the difficulty in the past of obtaining satisfactory data as to the number of persons engaged in each of the occupations for which rates of wage had been obtained. Though a considerable amount of information as to the number of persons engaged in different industries and occupations was available from subsequent Census results, it was found impracticable to bring the classification of these results into line with the detailed classification of occupations in the various industries as set out in the awards and determinations. For final results for each State and for each industrial group throughout the States, however, a careful system of weighting according to industrial groups was adopted. For example, in computing the result for any State in any period, the computed average wage rate in each industrial group was multiplied by a number (weight) representing the relative number of all male workers engaged in that group of industries in the particular State. The sum of the products thus obtained divided by the sum of the weights represented the average wage rate for that State for the particular period. The weights used for each industrial group in the computations of the average wage for male and female occupations were published in issues of the Labour Report prior to No. 20, 1929.

The results thus ascertained for the year 1913 were published in Labour Report No. 2, pages 28–43. In the early part of the year 1914, the scope of the inquiry was considerably extended, and particulars were included of the weekly

* The adopted classification of industries is shown in the Preface. † The sum of the weekly rates of wage divided by the number of occupations included.

rates of wage in respect of 930 specific occupations. The aggregate collection for the six States amounted to 4,256 adult occupations (3,948 male and 308 female). The results obtained thereby to 30th April, 1914, were published in Labour Report No. 5, pages 44–50. These results were further analysed, and the average number of working hours which constituted a full week's work in each occupation was ascertained and weighted in a manner similar to that for the rates of wage. This course was adopted in order to overcome the difficulty of making comparisons between States of the rates of wage in any specified occupation, since, in many instances, a different number of working hours constituted a full week's work in different States. By dividing the weighted average number of working hours into the weighted average weekly rate of wage a more satisfactory standard of comparison was ascertained. Results obtained from these computations were given for each industrial group for each State.

Since 30th April, 1914, the number of occupations included in comparative computations has been slightly reduced. When technical change or some other factor has led to the disappearance of the original occupation from an award, agreement or determination, the usual practice has been to substitute a similar occupation with a comparable rate of wage. In some cases, however, such a substitution could not be made and the slight drop in the total number of occupations included has resulted. The particulars of wages given in the Appendix (Sections IV. and V.) include all the more important occupations. These have been taken from awards or determinations made by industrial tribunals, or from agreements registered under Commonwealth or State Acts.

To supplement the results thus obtained, investigations were made regarding rates of wage in earlier years with a view to showing their general trend in each State and in the several industrial groups. The total number of occupations for which particulars were available back to 1891 was 652.

The particulars given in this chapter show variations in nominal wage rates from year to year in each State and in various industrial groups. Index numbers are also given showing variations in *real* wage rates in each State. The figures of nominal wages and hours of labour are in course of revision to meet changes in industrial structure. The amounts should not be regarded as actual current averages but as an index of changes expressed in money and hour terms.

A comparison of wage rates and hours of labour for certain occupations in Australia, the United Kingdom and New Zealand will be found in Section VI. of the Appendix.

2. **Adult Male Weekly Wage Rates.**—(i) *States.* The following table shows, for each State and Australia, the weighted average nominal weekly rates of wage payable to adult male workers for a full week's work at the dates specified. Index numbers are also given for each State with the average for Australia for the year 1911 as base (= 1,000).

WEEKLY WAGE RATES(*a*): ADULT MALES, "ALL GROUPS".

Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rates payable for a Full Week's Work (excluding Overtime) and Index Numbers of Wage Rates.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia.
No. of Occupations included.(*b*)	870	894	615	562	477	466	3,884

RATES OF WAGE.

	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
31st December, 1891	44 1	40 5	46 6	41 7	52 4	38 6	43 5
,, ,, 1901	43 11	40 9	46 2	42 0	53 11	36 10	43 5
,, ,, 1911	51 5	50 6	51 1	51 11	59 0	41 0	51 3
,, ,, 1914	56 2	54 7	53 5	54 5	62 10	52 8	55 7
,, ,, 1921	95 10	93 7	96 8	89 5	95 0	91 8	94 6
,, ,, 1929	102 11	101 1	101 2	97 2	100 7	94 8	101 2
,, ,, 1931	93 5	82 2	89 0	75 0	84 1	79 9	86 10
,, ,, 1939	96 7	93 6	97 5	88 11	100 6	89 5	95 3
,, ,, 1941	105 4	104 5	101 9	100 3	110 2	99 3	104 3
,, ,, 1951	255 0	245 5	240 10	241 8	251 4	247 3	248 7
,, ,, 1954	298 4	284 3	278 7	282 2	293 3	299 2	290 0
,, ,, 1955	310 1	296 7	284 11	284 9	304 9	302 7	300 0
,, ,, 1956(*c*)	331 8	312 10	301 3	297 11	318 1	319 9	317 9
,, ,, 1957	333 6	318 10	304 0	309 2	326 6	326 11	322 6
31st March, 1958	332 11	318 10	306 6	309 2	323 7	326 11	322 4
30th June, 1958	337 11	321 4	310 8	314 10	324 8	330 6	326 3
30th September, 1958	338 0	321 11	316 3	315 0	327 6	331 8	327 7
31st December, 1958	337 8	322 0	318 3	315 0	328 8	331 9	327 10

INDEX NUMBERS.

(*Base: Weighted Average Wage for Australia* (51*s.* 3*d.*), 1911 = 1,000.)

31st December, 1891	861	789	908	811	1,022	751	848
,, ,, 1901	858	796	901	819	1,052	719	848
,, ,, 1911	1,003	985	997	1,013	1,152	799	1,000
,, ,, 1914	1,096	1,065	1,042	1,062	1,226	1,028	1,085
,, ,, 1921	1,869	1,826	1,886	1,745	1,853	1,788	1,844
,, ,, 1929	2,007	1,972	1,975	1,896	1,963	1,848	1,974
,, ,, 1931	1,823	1,603	1,737	1,463	1,641	1,556	1,694
,, ,, 1939	1,885	1,825	1,900	1,735	1,962	1,745	1,858
,, ,, 1941	2,056	2,037	1,985	1,957	2,149	1,937	2,034
,, ,, 1951	4,975	4,789	4,699	4,715	4,904	4,825	4,850
,, ,, 1954	5,820	5,547	5,435	5,506	5,722	5,837	5,658
,, ,, 1955	6,051	5,787	5,559	5,555	5,946	5,905	5,853
,, ,, 1956(*c*)	6,471	6,104	5,878	5,812	6,206	6,239	6,201
,, ,, 1957	6,508	6,221	5,931	6,032	6,370	6,378	6,292
31st March, 1958	6,495	6,221	5,980	6,032	6,314	6,378	6,290
30th June, 1958	6,594	6,270	6,061	6,143	6,335	6,448	6,366
30th September, 1958	6,596	6,281	6,171	6,146	6,390	6,472	6,391
31st December, 1958	6,588	6,282	6,210	6,147	6,413	6,473	6,396

(*a*) The figures of nominal wages and hours of labour are in course of revision to meet changes in industrial structure. The amounts shown should not be regarded as actual current averages but as an index of changes expressed in money and hour terms. (*b*) As at 31st December, 1958. (*c*) Partly estimated. *See* Group XII., p. 44.

(ii) *Industrial Groups, Australia.*—The following table shows for Australia (*a*) the weighted average weekly rate of wage in each of the industrial groups, and (*b*) the weighted average wage for all groups combined, at the dates specified. Index numbers are also given for each industrial group with the average for all groups for the year 1911 as base (= 1,000).

WEEKLY WAGE RATES(*a*): ADULT MALES, INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, AUSTRALIA.

Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rates payable for a Full Week's Work (excluding Overtime) and Index Numbers of Wage Rates in each Industrial Group.

Date.	Industrial Group.													
	I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	II. Engineering, etc.	III. Food, Drink, etc.	IV. Clothing, Textiles, etc.	V. Books, Printing, etc.	VI. Other Manufacturing.	VII. Building.	VIII. Mining, etc.	IX. Railways, etc.	X. Other Transport.	XI. Shipping, etc.(*b*)	XII. Pastoral, etc.(*b*)	XIII. Domestic, etc.(*b*)	XIV. Miscellaneous.	All Industrial Groups.
RATES OF WAGE.															
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
31st December, 1891 ..	52 5	47 8	38 2	36 8	53 5	46 4	50 6	58 1	50 10	39 6	38 2	34 10	32 10	39 7	43 5
" " 1901 ..	52 3	48 5	44 7	36 3	51 0	46 5	53 10	54 8	52 4	40 9	38 5	32 1	30 8	38 10	43 5
" " 1911 ..	57 8	54 6	50 9	50 3	58 11	51 11	62 1	61 2	57 0	46 7	44 7	43 0	45 5	47 7	51 3
" " 1914 ..	59 6	57 9	55 8	53 0	63 10	56 0	65 5	65 2	59 8	52 8	49 10	49 5	47 11	54 0	55 7
" " 1921 ..	98 2	98 2	93 10	93 3	104 7	95 0	102 5	105 4	97 5	90 2	101 8	89 0	84 2	91 1	94 6
" " 1929 ..	104 10	103 6	100 10	99 6	119 1	102 2	113 0	110 7	105 2	96 9	107 0	95 6	92 6	96 8	101 2
" " 1931 ..	85 7	86 3	88 6	83 11	102 0	85 4	98 9	102 5	86 7	83 11	81 10	80 3	85 3	83 11	86 10
" " 1939 ..	100 1	99 3	96 9	93 2	114 3	95 8	106 5	109 1	97 1	92 10	98 6	84 0	89 11	92 10	95 3
" " 1941 ..	108 5	110 0	106 1	105 7	119 6	107 0	116 11	115 1	108 8	101 11	106 9	93 6	97 10	101 2	104 3
" " 1951 ..	238 8	237 1	239 3	242 10	274 5	238 10	259 0	249 2	238 0	233 2	271 11	279 1	224 8	232 0	248 7
" " 1954 ..	281 11	284 1	280 9	278 10	324 11	279 7	307 6	288 0	289 9	273 3	308 9	319 7	263 0	270 5	290 0
" " 1955 ..	295 11	288 8	290 4	283 4	332 2	288 9	323 1	300 4	301 11	281 3	310 0	326 8	273 6	282 10	300 0
" " 1956 ..	309 4	303 5	307 3	294 2	348 9	304 1	340 0	315 8	322 1	298 3	324 9	*c*351 0	287 7	300 1	*c*317 9
" " 1957 ..	315 0	309 6	312 3	308 11	353 4	310 6	346 10	321 3	323 2	302 4	334 7	354 8	292 9	302 9	322 6
31st March, 1958 ..	314 8	309 5	312 5	308 10	353 1	310 4	346 7	321 3	322 10	302 1	334 7	354 9	292 7	302 7	322 4
30th June, 1958 ..	318 8	313 8	316 7	313 10	357 0	314 6	351 0	325 0	326 0	306 5	339 10	358 6	296 4	306 3	326 3
30th September, 1958 ..	321 0	314 6	318 1	313 10	357 5	315 4	352 1	325 9	327 3	307 4	339 10	360 1	297 5	307 11	327 7
31st December, 1958 ..	321 3	314 8	318 5	313 10	359 6	315 3	352 3	325 10	327 3	307 7	339 10	360 2	297 8	308 5	327 10
INDEX NUMBERS. (*Base: Weighted Average Wage for Australia* (51*s.* 3*d.*), 1911 = 1,000.)															
31st December, 1891 ..	1,023	931	745	716	1,043	904	986	1,134	992	772	745	680	641	773	848
" " 1901 ..	1,019	945	871	708	996	907	1,050	1,067	1,021	795	751	627	598	759	848
" " 1911 ..	1,125	1,064	991	981	1,149	1,013	1,213	1,194	1,113	910	871	839	887	929	1,000
" " 1914 ..	1,161	1,127	1,085	1,034	1,246	1,093	1,276	1,272	1,165	1,026	972	965	935	1,054	1,085
" " 1921 ..	1,916	1,915	1,832	1,819	2,040	1,854	1,999	2,056	1,901	1,760	1,984	1,736	1,642	1,778	1,844
" " 1929 ..	2,046	2,019	1,967	1,942	2,323	1,994	2,205	2,157	2,052	1,888	2,087	1,863	1,804	1,886	1,974
" " 1931 ..	1,669	1,683	1,727	1,638	1,991	1,664	1,926	1,999	1,690	1,638	1,596	1,566	1,663	1,637	1,694
" " 1939 ..	1,953	1,936	1,888	1,817	2,229	1,867	2,076	2,129	1,895	1,812	1,922	1,639	1,755	1,811	1,858
" " 1941 ..	2,116	2,147	2,071	2,060	2,332	2,088	2,282	2,245	2,121	1,989	2,082	1,825	1,908	1,974	2,034
" " 1951 ..	4,656	4,626	4,668	4,738	5,355	4,661	5,054	4,861	4,643	4,550	5,306	5,445	4,384	4,527	4,850
" " 1954 ..	5,501	5,542	5,478	5,441	6,340	5,455	6,000	5,620	5,654	5,332	6,025	6,236	5,132	5,276	5,658
" " 1955 ..	5,774	5,632	5,665	5,529	6,481	5,635	6,305	5,861	5,891	5,488	6,049	6,374	5,337	5,519	5,853
" " 1956 ..	6,036	5,921	5,995	5,740	6,805	5,933	6,634	6,159	6,284	5,820	6,337	(*c*)6,849	5,611	5,855	(*c*)6,201
" " 1957 ..	6,146	6,039	6,093	6,028	6,893	6,059	6,768	6,269	6,305	5,899	6,529	6,920	5,713	5,908	6,292
31st March, 1958 ..	6,139	6,037	6,096	6,027	6,890	6,056	6,762	6,268	6,300	5,894	6,528	6,922	5,709	5,904	6,290
30th June, 1958 ..	6,218	6,120	6,178	6,124	6,966	6,136	6,848	6,341	6,361	5,978	6,631	6,995	5,782	5,976	6,366
30th September, 1958 ..	6,263	6,137	6,206	6,124	6,974	6,152	6,870	6,356	6,386	5,996	6,631	7,026	5,804	6,008	6,391
31st December, 1958 ..	6,269	6,139	6,213	6,124	7,015	6,152	6,873	6,358	6,386	6,002	6,630	7,027	5,808	6,017	6,396

(*a*) *See* note (*a*) to table on page 43. (*b*) Includes the value of keep, where supplied. (*c*) Partly estimated.

3. **Adult Female Weekly Wage Rates.**—(i) *States.* The index numbers given in the preceding paragraphs for adult male workers were computed with the weighted average wage in 1911 as base (= 1,000). In the case of females, however, it was not possible to secure information for years prior to 1914, and the index numbers are therefore computed with the weighted average rate of wage payable to adult female workers in Australia at 30th April, 1914, as base (=1,000).

The following table shows the weighted average nominal weekly rates of wage payable to adult female workers for a full week's work in each State and Australia at the dates specified. Index numbers are also given for each State with the average for Australia at 30th April, 1914, as base (= 1,000).

WEEKLY WAGE RATES(*a*): ADULT FEMALES.

Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rates payable for a Full Week's Work (excluding Overtime) and Index Numbers of Wage Rates.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia.
No. of Occupations included.(*b*) ..	84	87	38	47	40	39	335

RATES OF WAGE.

	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
31st December, 1914	26 10	27 9	27 1	24 1	37 4	25 10	27 5
,, ,, 1921	49 0	47 10	50 3	45 2	56 4	47 6	48 8
,, ,, 1929	53 11	54 1	54 11	51 4	58 10	53 9	54 1
,, ,, 1931	49 8	45 10	47 11	43 1	51 7	45 8	47 5
,, ,, 1939	53 3	51 9	55 2	49 7	55 8	50 8	52 8
,, ,, 1941	57 11	58 4	59 6	55 5	60 4	56 7	58 2
,, ,, 1951	171 1	172 10	161 7	171 4	163 2	168 7	170 4
,, ,, 1954	198 9	200 2	190 0	199 5	190 5	196 7	197 11
,, ,, 1955	205 3	206 9	192 10	199 11	193 7	197 11	203 4
,, ,, 1956	216 10	216 2	201 3	207 5	201 8	207 10	213 2
,, ,, 1957	220 1	222 2	207 11	217 11	210 11	215 4	218 10
31st March, 1958	219 8	222 2	209 0	217 11	209 6	215 4	218 9
30th June, 1958	223 8	224 7	212 3	221 8	211 2	218 3	221 11
30th September, 1958	223 8	225 0	214 8	221 8	212 6	218 3	222 5
31st December, 1958	223 3	225 0	215 10	221 8	212 11	218 3	222 5

INDEX NUMBERS.

(*Base: Weighted Average Wage for Australia* (27*s.* 2*d.*), 30*th April*, 1914 = 1,000.)

31st December, 1914	987	1,022	996	885	1,373	950	1,008
,, ,, 1921	1,803	1,761	1,849	1,661	2,074	1,749	1,790
,, ,, 1929	1,983	1,990	2,020	1,888	2,165	1,978	1,990
,, ,, 1931	1,828	1,688	1,765	1,584	1,900	1,681	1,746
,, ,, 1939	1,960	1,906	2,031	1,826	2,049	1,866	1,938
,, ,, 1941	2,133	2,148	2,191	2,038	2,220	2,082	2,141
,, ,, 1951	6,296	6,362	5,948	6,305	6,007	6,204	6,268
,, ,, 1954	7,314	7,367	6,994	7,339	7,007	7,236	7,285
,, ,, 1955	7,554	7,608	7,098	7,358	7,125	7,284	7,483
,, ,, 1956	7,981	7,955	7,406	7,635	7,423	7,649	7,846
,, ,, 1957	8,101	8,176	7,652	8,021	7,764	7,926	8,054
31st March, 1958	8,086	8,176	7,692	8,021	7,710	7,926	8,052
30th June, 1958	8,233	8,265	7,812	8,160	7,773	8,033	8,168
30th September, 1958	8,233	8,282	7,900	8,160	7,822	8,033	8,187
31st December, 1958	8,216	8,282	7,944	8,160	7,837	8,033	8,187

(*a*) *See* note (*a*) to table on page 43. (*b*) As at 31st December, 1958.

(ii) *Industrial Groups, Australia.* The following table shows for Australia (*a*) the weighted average weekly rate of wage in each of the industrial groups in which the number of females is significant, and (*b*) the weighted average wage for all groups combined, at the dates specified. Index numbers are also given for each industrial group with the average for all groups at 30th April, 1914, as base (=1,000).

WEEKLY WAGE RATES(*a*): ADULT FEMALES, INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, AUSTRALIA.

Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rates payable for a full Week's Work (excluding Overtime) and Index Numbers of Wage Rates in Industrial Groups.

Date.	Industrial Group. III. Food, Drink, etc.	IV. Clothing, Textiles, etc.	I., II., V., and VI. All Other Manufacturing.	XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.(*b*)	XIV. Miscellaneous.	All Groups.
RATES OF WAGE.						
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
31st December, 1914 ..	23 5	24 11	27 0	30 2	31 4	27 5
,, ,, 1921 ..	43 9	48 7	48 0	48 6	50 0	48 8
,, ,, 1929 ..	49 4	54 4	53 11	54 9	53 10	54 1
,, ,, 1931 ..	44 4	45 5	46 11	50 9	49 10	47 5
,, ,, 1939 ..	48 9	50 10	51 11	54 4	56 8	52 8
,, ,, 1941 ..	53 5	57 4	58 0	58 9	60 7	58 2
,, ,, 1951 ..	164 2	169 6	177 1	160 10	179 10	170 4
,, ,, 1954 ..	191 2	196 6	201 8	188 11	209 11	197 11
,, ,, 1955 ..	198 7	197 6	205 6	195 1	225 1	203 4
,, ,, 1956 ..	210 9	205 2	215 8	205 11	238 7	213 2
,, ,, 1957 ..	212 2	214 5	220 2	209 0	239 7	218 10
31st March, 1958	212 0	214 4	220 1	208 9	239 6	218 9
30th June, 1958	214 6	217 10	223 5	211 6	242 4	221 11
30th September, 1958 ..	214 11	217 10	223 6	212 6	243 10	222 5
31st December, 1958 ..	214 9	217 10	223 4	212 7	243 11	222 5
INDEX NUMBERS. (*Base: Weighted Average Wage for Australia* (27*s.* 2*d.*) 30*th April*, 1914 = 1,000.)						
31st December, 1914 ..	862	917	994	1,110	1,153	1,008
,, ,, 1921 ..	1,609	1,789	1,766	1,787	1,841	1,790
,, ,, 1929 ..	1,815	1,999	1,984	2,015	1,982	1,990
,, ,, 1931 ..	1,630	1,672	1,728	1,869	1,834	1,746
,, ,, 1939 ..	1,795	1,869	1,910	2,003	2,085	1,938
,, ,, 1941 ..	1,967	2,110	2,134	2,163	2,229	2,141
,, ,, 1951 ..	6,043	6,238	6,517	5,919	6,618	6,268
,, ,, 1954 ..	7,036	7,232	7,422	6,951	7,725	7,285
,, ,, 1955 ..	7,308	7,268	7,563	7,180	8,285	7,483
,, ,, 1956 ..	7,757	7,551	7,936	7,580	8,782	7,846
,, ,, 1957 ..	7,808	7,890	8,102	7,691	8,818	8,054
31st March, 1958	7,802	7,890	8,102	7,684	8,814	8,052
30th June, 1958	7,895	8,019	8,223	7,784	8,919	8,168
30th September, 1958 ..	7,910	8,019	8,225	7,820	8,975	8,187
31st December, 1958 ..	7,904	8,018	8,219	7,824	8,976	8,187

(*a*) *See* note (*a*) to table on page 43. (*b*) Includes the value of board and lodging, where supplied.

4. **Weekly and Hourly Rates of Wage, and Weekly Hours of Labour, 31st December, 1958.**—(i) *General.* The rates of wage referred to in the preceding paragraphs are the minimum rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime). However, the number of hours constituting a full week's work

differs, in some instances, between various trades and occupations in each State, and between the same trades and occupations in the several States. To secure what may be for some purposes a better comparison, the results in the preceding paragraphs are reduced to a common basis, namely, the rate of wage per hour in industrial groups in each State and in all States. In the Appendix (Sections IV. and V.), details are given of the number of hours worked per week in the various occupations. The following tables include the average number of hours per week in industrial groups for each State.

The tables show (*a*) the average weekly wage rate; (*b*) the average number of working hours per week for a full week's work; and (*c*) the average hourly wage rate for adult male and female workers in each State and industrial group except Groups XI. (Shipping, etc.) and XII. (Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.). These have been excluded because of the difficulty of obtaining, for some of the occupations in these groups, definite particulars for the computation of average working hours and hourly rates of wage.

(ii) *Adult Males.*—The following table shows the average nominal weekly and hourly rates of wage payable to adult male workers and the weekly hours of labour at 31st December, 1958.

WEEKLY AND HOURLY WAGE RATES AND WEEKLY HOURS OF LABOUR(*a*): ADULT MALES, INDUSTRIAL GROUPS.

Average Rates of Wage Payable and Weekly Hours of Labour, 31st December, 1958.

(Weekly wage rates are expressed in shillings and pence; hourly wage rates in pence).

Industrial Group.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus-tralia. (*b*)
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. ..	Weekly Wage	331/2	315/1	312/9	310/2	324/11	320/8	321/3
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	99.34	94.52	93.83	93.06	97.48	96.21	96.38
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. ..	Weekly Wage	316/10	307/2	333/9	304/3	325/8	322/5	314/8
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	95.05	92.15	100.12	91.29	97.70	96.74	94.39
III. Food, Drink, etc. ..	Weekly Wage	321/11	322/11	303/5	319/11	317/1	328/7	318/5
	Working Hours	40.00	39.93	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	39.98
	Hourly Wage	96.58	97.04	91.02	95.97	95.13	98.58	95.57
IV. Clothing, Textiles, etc. ..	Weekly Wage	310/7	313/3	321/0	321/0	325/11	308/7	313/10
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	93.17	93.97	96.30	96.30	97.77	92.58	94.15
V. Books, Printing, etc. ..	Weekly Wage	363/9	353/6	359/10	343/9	393/6	360/10	359/6
	Working Hours	40.00	39.51	40.00	40.00	37.69	40.00	39.72
	Hourly Wage	109.12	107.36	107.95	103.12	125.28	108.25	108.62
VI. Other Manufacturing ..	Weekly Wage	322/10	310/1	303/2	311/5	316/1	323/8	315/3
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	96.86	93.03	90.94	93.42	94.83	97.11	94.59
VII. Building	Weekly Wage	360/0	356/8	340/8	329/7	346/6	339/5	352/3
	Working Hours	39.94	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	39.98
	Hourly Wage	108.17	106.99	102.19	98.87	103.95	101.82	105.73
VIII. Mining(*c*)	Weekly Wage	329/8	319/4	317/5	303/1	*d*339/9	316/5	325/10
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	38.15	40.00	39.69
	Hourly Wage	98.89	95.81	95.23	90.93	106.88	94.93	98.52
IX. Rail and Tram Services..	Weekly Wage	336/3	322/5	324/5	309/6	323/9	345/9	327/3
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	100.87	96.73	97.32	92.84	97.13	103.74	98.18
X. Other Transport ..	Weekly Wage	319/11	298/3	297/0	293/4	314/9	308/6	307/7
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	95.97	89.48	89.09	88.00	94.42	92.55	92.28
XI. Shipping, etc.(*e*)(*f*) ..	Weekly Wage	339/3	341/7	338/8	339/4	340/1	341/0	339/10
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural,etc.(*f*)	Weekly Wage	384/8	345/6	340/9	342/3	352/3	364/5	360/2

For footnotes *see* next page.

WEEKLY AND HOURLY WAGE RATES AND WEEKLY HOURS OF LABOUR(*a*): ADULT MALES, INDUSTRIAL GROUPS—*continued.*

Average Rates of Wage Payable and Weekly Hours of Labour, 31*st December,* 1958—continued.

Industrial Group.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia. (*b*)
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	Weekly Wage	306/5	298/10	281/9	280/11	294/3	292/1	297/8
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	91.92	89.64	84.52	84.27	88.27	87.62	89.30
XIV. Miscellaneous	Weekly Wage	317/0	307/8	297/0	293/3	306/8	306/8	308/5
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	95.09	92.31	89.10	87.97	91.99	92.01	92.52
All Groups(*b*)	Weekly Wage	337/8	322/0	318/3	315/0	328/8	331/9	327/10
All Groups except XI. and XII.(*b*)	Weekly Wage	325/7	316/4	310/9	305/4	323/3	317/8	318/9
	Working Hours	39.99	39.98	40.00	40.00	39.51	40.00	39.95
	Hourly Wage	97.71	94.96	93.21	91.59	98.17	95.30	95.76

(*a*) *See* note (*a*) to table on page 43. (*b*) Weighted average. (*c*) Average rates of wage and hours prevailing at the principal mining centres in each State. (*d*) Excludes district allowances in the gold-mining industry. (*e*) Average rates of wage are for occupations other than Masters, Officers and Engineers in the Merchant Marine Service, and include the value of keep, where supplied. (*f*) Definite particulars for the computation of average working hours and hourly rates of wage are not available.

(iii) *Adult Females.*—The following table shows the average nominal weekly and hourly rates of wage payable to adult female workers and the weekly hours of labour at 31st December, 1958.

WEEKLY AND HOURLY WAGE RATES AND WEEKLY HOURS OF LABOUR(*a*): ADULT FEMALES, INDUSTRIAL GROUPS.

Average Rates of Wage Payable and Weekly Hours of Labour, 31*st December,* 1958.

(Weekly wage rates are expressed in shillings and pence; hourly wage rates in pence).

Industrial Group.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia. (*b*)
III. Food, Drink, etc.	Weekly Wage	217/2	215/6	201/6	218/8	189/4	218/2	214/9
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	65.15	64.64	60.45	65.61	56.80	65.44	64.42
IV. Clothing, Textiles, etc.	Weekly Wage	216/0	217/0	221/5	222/0	222/10	220/0	217/10
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	64.79	65.10	66.42	66.61	66.86	66.00	65.36
I., II., V., & VI. All Other Manufacturing	Weekly Wage	230/1	219/7	210/2	227/3	..	219/0	223/4
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	69.03	65.87	63.05	68.18	..	65.70	66.99
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	Weekly Wage	214/3	221/6	197/4	215/10	203/10	214/3	212/7
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	64.28	66.44	59.20	64.74	61.15	64.27	63.77
XIV. Miscellaneous (Shop Assistants, Clerks, etc.)	Weekly Wage	242/10	255/11	229/5	224/3	..	..	243/11
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	..	..	40.00
	Hourly Wage	72.85	76.78	68.82	67.28	..	..	73.16
All Groups(*b*)	Weekly Wage	223/3	225/0	215/10	221/8	212/11	218/3	222/5
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	66.97	67.51	64.75	66.51	63.88	65.48	66.73

(*a*) *See* note (*a*) to table on page 43. (*b*) Weighted average.

5. **Hourly Wage Rates.**—(i) *Adult Males.* The following table shows the weighted average nominal hourly rates of wage payable to adult male workers in each State and Australia at the dates specified. Index numbers are also given for each State with the average for Australia at 30th April, 1914 as base (= 1,000).

HOURLY WAGE RATES(*a*): ADULT MALES, "ALL GROUPS".

Weighted Average Nominal Hourly Rates Payable and Index Numbers of Hourly Rates.

At 31st December—	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.
RATES OF WAGE.							
(Pence.)							
1914	14.00	13.75	13.75	13.75	16.25	13.00	14.00
1921	25.25	24.25	26.00	22.75	25.00	23.50	24.75
1929	28.07	26.46	27.93	25.24	26.85	24.44	27.08
1931	26.15	21.31	24.42	19.30	22.58	20.66	23.40
1939	27.41	25.60	27.62	23.62	27.94	23.97	26.55
1941	29.85	28.91	29.21	27.31	31.27	27.05	29.29
1951	74.24	71.78	66.39	69.08	74.26	70.90	71.94
1953	85.55	83.19	78.16	80.78	87.09	84.34	83.57
1954	86.20	83.97	80.35	82.19	87.42	85.32	84.51
1955	90.22	87.73	82.51	83.22	91.48	86.65	87.87
1956	96.04	92.00	87.99	86.28	95.14	91.19	92.75
1957	96.48	93.95	88.79	89.77	97.62	93.59	94.16
1958	97.71	94.96	93.21	91.59	98.17	95.30	95.76
INDEX NUMBERS.							
(*Base: Weighted Average for Australia* (13.96*d.*), 30*th April*, 1914 = 1,000.)							
1914	1,010	990	985	993	1,173	936	1,009
1921	1,817	1,741	1,865	1,637	1,796	1,675	1,779
1929	2,011	1,895	2,001	1,808	1,923	1,751	1,940
1931	1,873	1,527	1,749	1,383	1,617	1,480	1,676
1939	1,963	1,834	1,979	1,692	2,001	1,717	1,903
1941	2,138	2,071	2,092	1,956	2,240	1,938	2,098
1951	5,318	5,142	4,756	4,948	5,319	5,079	5,153
1953	6,128	5,959	5,599	5,787	6,239	6,042	5,986
1954	6,175	6,015	5,756	5,888	6,262	6,112	6,054
1955	6,463	6,284	5,910	5,961	6,553	6,207	6,294
1956	6,880	6,590	6,303	6,181	6,815	6,532	6,644
1957	6,911	6,730	6,360	6,431	6,993	6,704	6,745
1958	6,999	6,802	6,677	6,561	7,032	6,827	6,860

(*a*) Weighted average hourly rates of wage for all industrial groups except Groups XI. (Shipping, etc.) and XII. (Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.), for which definite particulars for the computation of hourly wage rates are not available. *See also* note (*a*) to table on page 43.

(ii) *Adult Females.*—The following table shows the weighted average nominal hourly rates of wage payable to adult female workers in each State and Australia at the dates specified. Index numbers are also given for each State with the average for Australia at 30th April, 1914 as base (= 1,000).

HOURLY WAGE RATES(*a*): ADULT FEMALES, "ALL GROUPS".

Weighted Average Nominal Hourly Rates Payable and Index Numbers of Hourly Rates.

At 31st December—	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.
RATES OF WAGE.							
(Pence.)							
1914	6.50	6.75	6.50	5.75	9.00	6.00	6.75
1921	13.00	12.50	13.25	11.75	14.75	12.00	12.75
1929	14.73	14.30	14.95	13.38	15.49	14.00	14.49
1931	13.57	12.10	12.90	11.21	13.58	11.89	12.68
1939	14.56	13.99	15.05	12.96	14.72	13.49	14.24
1941	15.85	15.85	16.23	15.10	16.45	15.43	15.85
1951	51.32	51.86	48.48	51.40	48.96	50.57	51.09
1953	59.52	60.25	56.57	59.84	57.11	58.90	59.38
1954	59.62	60.05	57.01	59.82	57.11	58.98	59.38
1955	61.57	62.01	57.86	59.98	58.07	59.37	61.00
1956	65.05	64.84	60.36	62.24	60.50	62.35	63.95
1957	66.03	66.64	62.37	65.38	63.29	64.61	65.65
1958	66.97	67.51	64.75	66.51	63.88	65.48	66.73
INDEX NUMBERS.							
(*Base: Weighted Average for Australia* (6.64*d.*), 30*th April*, 1914 = 1,000.)							
1914	983	1,035	983	881	1,364	920	1,009
1921	1,965	1,878	1,989	1,770	2,215	1,794	1,923
1929	2,218	2,154	2,252	2,015	2,333	2,108	2,182
1931	2,044	1,822	1,943	1,688	2,045	1,791	1,910
1939	2,193	2,107	2,267	1,952	2,217	2,032	2,145
1941	2,387	2,387	2,444	2,274	2,477	2,324	2,387
1951	7,729	7,810	7,301	7,741	7,373	7,616	7,694
1953	8,964	9,074	8,520	9,012	8,601	8,870	8,943
1954	8,979	9,044	8,586	9,009	8,601	8,883	8,943
1955	9,273	9,339	8,714	9,033	8,745	8,941	9,187
1956	9,797	9,765	9,090	9,373	9,111	9,390	9,630
1957	9,944	10,036	9,393	9,846	9,532	9,730	9,887
1958	10,086	10,167	9,751	10,017	9,620	9,861	10,050

(*a*) *See* note (*a*) to table on page 43.

6. **Nominal Weekly Hours of Labour.**—(i) *Adult Males.*—The following table shows, for each State and Australia, the weighted average nominal hours of labour (excluding overtime) in a full working week for adult male workers at 31st December, 1914 to 1958. Index numbers are given for each State with the weighted average hours of labour for Australia at 30th April, 1914, as base (= 1,000).

There has been no change in the weighted average nominal hours of labour for adult males since 1951.

WEEKLY HOURS OF LABOUR (EXCLUDING OVERTIME)(*a*): ADULT MALES.

Weighted Average Nominal Hours of Labour (excluding Overtime) worked during a Full Working Week and Index Numbers of Hours of Labour.

At 31st December—	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.
WEEKLY HOURS OF LABOUR.							
1914	49.35	48.66	48.64	48.59	48.18	48.62	48.87
1921	45.66	46.95	45.52	47.07	46.24	46.84	46.22
1929	44.14	46.83	43.96	46.83	45.58	47.09	45.34
1931	44.22	46.88	44.98	46.83	45.55	46.76	45.51
1939	43.92	44.61	43.46	45.83	44.33	45.33	44.29
1941	43.68	44.12	43.43	44.49	43.13	44.42	43.83
1946	43.50	43.82	43.18	44.07	43.15	43.38	43.57
1947	41.11	43.68	43.18	42.84	43.15	43.27	42.51
1948	40.00	39.99	40.00	40.00	39.57	40.00	39.96
1955	39.99	39.98	40.00	40.00	39.51	40.00	39.95
1956	39.99	39.98	40.00	40.00	39.51	40.00	39.95
1957	39.99	39.98	40.00	40.00	39.51	40.00	39.95
1958	39.99	39.98	40.00	40.00	39.51	40.00	39.95
INDEX NUMBERS. (*Base: Weighted Average for Australia* (48.93), 30*th April*, 1914 = 1,000.)							
1914	1,009	994	994	993	985	994	999
1921	933	960	930	962	945	957	945
1929	902	957	898	957	932	962	927
1931	904	958	919	957	931	956	930
1939	898	912	888	937	906	926	905
1941	893	902	888	909	881	908	896
1946	889	896	882	901	882	887	890
1947	840	893	882	876	882	884	869
1948	817	817	817	817	809	817	817
1955	817	817	817	817	807	817	816
1956	817	817	817	817	807	817	816
1957	817	817	817	817	807	817	816
1958	817	817	817	817	807	817	816

(*a*) Weighted average working hours per week for all industrial groups except Groups XI. (Shipping, etc.) and XII. (Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.), for which definite particulars for the computation of hourly wage rates are not available. *See also* note (*a*) to table on page 43.

(ii) *Adult Females.*—The following table shows, for each State and Australia, the weighted average nominal hours of labour (excluding overtime) in a full working week for adult female workers at 31st December, 1914 to 1958. Index numbers are given for each State with the weighted average hours of labour for Australia at 30th April, 1914, as base (= 1,000).

There has been no change in the weighted average nominal hours of labour for adult females since 1948.

WEEKLY HOURS OF LABOUR (EXCLUDING OVERTIME)(*a*): ADULT FEMALES.

Weighted Average Nominal Hours of Labour (excluding Overtime) worked during a Full Working Week and Index Numbers of Hours of Labour.

At 31st December—	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.
WEEKLY HOURS OF LABOUR.							
1914	49.34	48.54	49.82	49.33	49.44	50.76	49.11
1921	45.06	46.04	45.66	46.10	45.97	47.86	45.69
1929	43.93	45.40	44.01	46.03	45.57	46.07	44.79
1931	43.93	45.44	44.56	46.03	45.57	46.07	44.88
1939	43.88	44.42	44.01	45.96	45.38	45.10	44.36
1941	43.88	44.19	44.00	44.00	44.00	44.00	44.03
1946	43.88	44.19	44.00	43.99	44.00	44.00	44.03
1947	41.78	43.99	44.00	42.19	44.00	44.00	43.08
1948	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
1955	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
1956	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
1957	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
1958	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
INDEX NUMBERS. (*Base: Weighted Average for Australia* (49.08), *30th April*, 1914 = 1,000.)							
1914	1,005	989	1,015	1,005	1,007	1,034	1,001
1921	918	938	930	939	937	975	931
1929	895	925	897	938	928	939	913
1931	895	926	908	938	928	939	914
1939	894	905	897	936	925	919	904
1941	894	900	896	896	896	896	897
1946	894	900	896	896	896	896	897
1947	851	896	896	860	896	896	878
1948	814	814	814	814	814	814	814
1955	814	814	814	814	814	814	814
1956	814	814	814	814	814	814	814
1957	814	814	814	814	814	814	814
1958	814	814	814	814	814	814	814

(*a*) *See* note (*a*) to table on page 43.

7. **Nominal and "Real" Wage Rates.**—(i) *General.*—Index numbers of wage rates are said to be *nominal* when they represent changes in the wage rates themselves but are described as *real* when they represent changes in equivalent purchasing power, that is, the purchasing power of the corresponding wages in terms of some definite composite unit or list of items the cost of which can be ascertained at different times. The relation between *nominal* and *real* wages was discussed at some length in Labour Report No. 6, and was also referred to in Labour Report No. 11.

Prior to 1936 it was the practice of the Bureau to compute *real* wage rate index numbers by dividing the nominal wage rate index numbers by the corresponding retail price index numbers for food, groceries and rent of all houses ("A"* Series). While wage rates were generally varied on the basis of the "A" Series index numbers there was a good deal to be said for this procedure. When the Commonwealth Court abandoned the "A" Series, the merits of the "C"* Series of retail price index numbers for "deflating" nominal wage rates were strengthened. The "C" Series covers food, groceries, rent of four and five roomed houses, clothing and miscellaneous household requirements. As the computation of the "A" Series index by this Bureau was discontinued after the June quarter, 1938, *real* wage rates are measured in terms of their purchasing power over the "C" Series only. A table showing for each State and for Australia *real* wage rates to the end of 1937 measured in terms of their purchasing power over the "A" Series appeared in earlier issues of the Labour Report (*see* No. 38, page 70).

A graph showing nominal and *real* wage rate index numbers for the period 1911 to 1958 appears on page 33.

(ii) *Nominal Weekly Wage Rate Index Numbers.*—The following table shows, for the period 1911 to 1958, index numbers of the weighted average nominal weekly rates of wage payable for adult males in each State, the weighted average rate for Australia in 1911 being taken as the base (= 1,000). These results are based generally upon the rates of wage prevailing in the capital city of each State, but in certain industries, such as mining, rates are necessarily taken for places other than the capital cities. The index numbers for 1911 are based on rates current at the end of December, 1911, annual averages not being available. For 1914 and subsequent years, however, the index numbers are based on the average of the rates operative at the end of each of the four quarters.

NOMINAL WEEKLY WAGE RATE(*a*) INDEX NUMBERS: ADULT MALES.

(*Base: Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Wage(a) for Australia*, 1911 = 1,000.)

State.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1929.	1931.	1939.	1955.	1956. (*b*)	1957.	1958.
New South Wales	1,003	1,093	1,862	2,012	1,851	1,874	5,942	6,256	6,482	6,568
Victoria	985	1,062	1,803	1,964	1,683	1,808	5,699	6,000	6,195	6,264
Queensland	997	1,035	1,879	1,976	1,769	1,885	5,508	5,737	*b*5,909	6,106
South Australia	1,013	1,061	1,697	1,891	1,580	1,725	5,548	5,721	5,973	6,117
Western Australia ..	1,152	1,223	1,832	1,960	1,745	1,956	5,869	6,084	6,320	6,363
Tasmania	799	1,027	1,745	1,840	1,625	1,738	5,899	6,144	6,343	6,443
Australia	1,000	1,081	1,826	1,972	1,752	1,846	5,773	6,050	*b*6,261	6,361

(*a*) For a full week's work (excluding overtime). (*b*) Partly estimated. *See* Group XII., p. 44.

* For explanation of "A" Series and "C" Series *see* page 4.

(iii) "*Real*" *Weekly Wage Rate Index Numbers.*—In obtaining the *real* wage rate index numbers in the following table the nominal wage rate index numbers shown above have been divided by the corresponding retail price index numbers for the capital city and multiplied by 1,000.

Since the "C" Series index numbers were not compiled for periods prior to November, 1914, it has been assumed for the purpose of the following table that fluctuations in the "C" Series between 1911 (the base of the table) and 1914 would have been similar to the fluctuations observed in the "A" Series.

"REAL" WEEKLY WAGE RATE INDEX NUMBERS(*a*): ADULT MALES.

MEASURED IN TERMS OF PURCHASING POWER OVER THE "C" SERIES LIST OF ITEMS.

(*Base: Weighted Average Real Wage(a) for Australia,* 1911 = 1,000.)

State.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1929.	1931.	1939.	1955.	1956.(*b*)		1957.(*b*)		1958.(*b*)	
								A.	B.	A.	B.	A.	B.
New South Wales ..	..	925	1,073	1,130	1,210	1,207	1,469	1,493	1,459	1,492	1,494	1,479	1,486
Victoria	..	954	1,084	1,164	1,200	1,180	1,453	1,451	1,409	1,461	1,457	1,455	1,457
Queensland ..	..	1,022	1,227	1,290	1,336	1,306	1,501	1,521	1,493	1,509	1,520	1,475	1,489
South Australia ..	..	914	1,034	1,099	1,137	1,147	1,421	1,432	1,398	1,459	1,461	1,448	1,454
Western Australia ..	..	1,043	1,096	1,152	1,189	1,308	1,385	1,382	1,381	1,397	1,395	1,395	1,398
Tasmania ..	..	902	984	1,108	1,120	1,153	1,447	1,412	1,390	1,416	1,421	1,413	1,423
Australia	1,000	948	1,087	1,151	1,210	1,210	1,454	1,465	1,432	1,470	1,471	1,460	1,466

(*a*) For a full week's work (excluding overtime). (*b*) Based on the "C" Series retail price index, column A excluding and column B including, the price movement of potatoes and onions. *See* para. 6 on page 15.

In the above table the *real* wage rate index numbers are computed to the one base, that of Australia for 1911. As the index numbers are comparable in all respects, comparisons may be made as to the increase or decrease in the *real* wage rate index number for any State over any period of years.

In Labour Report No. 40, page 70, a table was included showing, at intervals from 1901 to 1929 and for each year from 1931 to 1951, *real* wage rate index numbers for Australia based on the "C" Series. *Real* wage rate index numbers based on the "A" Series were also shown for years prior to 1938.

8. **Average Weekly Wage Earnings.**—(i) *Average Weekly Total Wages Paid and Average Earnings, All Industries.*—The following figures are derived from employment and wages recorded on Pay-roll Tax returns, which cover approximately 73 per cent. of the estimated number of civilian wage and salary earners in employment, and from estimates of the unrecorded balance. The figures relate to civilian wages and salaries only, pay and allowances of members of the armed forces being excluded.

AVERAGE WEEKLY TOTAL WAGES PAID AND AVERAGE EARNINGS.

(REVISED SERIES.)

Period.	N.S.W. (a)	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust. (b)	W. Aust.	Tas.	Aust.
AVERAGE WEEKLY TOTAL WAGES PAID. (£'000.)							
1947–48	7,112	4,845	2,059	1,360	984	480	16,840
1948–49	8,279	5,710	2,523	1,654	1,168	571	19,905
1949–50	9,250	6,600	2,904	1,922	1,383	678	22,737
1950–51	11,759	8,223	3,588	2,416	1,728	826	28,540
1951–52	14,778	10,171	4,391	3,051	2,231	1,075	35,697
1952–53	15,422	10,816	4,868	3,357	2,492	1,199	38,154
1953–54	16,480	11,767	5,227	3,615	2,754	1,305	41,148
1954–55	17,970	12,901	5,601	3,940	2,928	1,399	44,739
1955–56	19,764	14,144	6,033	4,330	3,104	1,521	48,896
1956–57	20,943	14,925	6,457	4,507	3,177	1,635	51,644
1957–58	21,664	15,510	6,585	4,635	3,284	1,671	53,349
1957–58—							
September Qtr. ..	21,289	15,170	6,592	4,619	3,317	1,578	52,565
December ,, ..	22,741	16,253	6,894	4,772	3,353	1,674	55,687
March ,, ..	20,630	14,789	6,091	4,480	3,116	1,653	50,759
June ,, ..	21,995	15,831	6,764	4,668	3,350	1,778	54,386
1958–59—							
September ,, ..	22,182	15,908	7,016	4,757	3,407	1,654	54,924
December ,, ..	23,645	17,044	7,424	4,961	3,505	1,799	58,378
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS PER EMPLOYED MALE UNIT.(c) (£.)							
1947–48	8.04	8.06	6.94	7.26	7.21	6.96	7.74
1948–49	9.04	9.12	8.08	8.35	8.14	7.83	8.77
1949–50	9.89	10.08	8.91	9.23	9.08	8.96	9.66
1950–51	11.92	12.05	10.47	11.03	10.67	10.56	11.55
1951–52	14.74	14.48	12.60	13.63	13.32	13.29	14.13
1952–53	15.96	15.71	14.17	15.17	14.69	14.80	15.45
1953–54	16.69	16.64	14.98	15.87	15.59	15.78	16.26
1954–55	17.64	17.59	15.58	16.83	16.11	16.54	17.13
1955–56	18.92	18.78	16.49	17.88	16.92	17.75	18.28
1956–57	19.89	19.70	17.50	18.28	17.48	18.79	19.16
1957–58	20.44	20.22	17.94	18.68	18.05	18.95	19.67
1957–58—							
September Qtr. ..	20.18	19.97	17.83	18.66	18.37	18.22	19.47
December ,, ..	21.44	21.27	18.96	19.25	18.46	19.22	20.59
March ,, ..	19.43	19.14	16.76	18.01	17.10	18.58	18.68
June ,, ..	20.70	20.49	18.22	18.79	18.30	19.76	19.93
1958–59—							
September ,, ..	20.92	20.68	18.68	19.17	18.67	18.74	20.16
December ,, ..	22.19	22.01	19.88	19.89	19.12	20.37	21.35

(*a*) Includes the Australian Capital Territory. (*b*) Includes the Northern Territory. (*c*) Male units represent total male employment plus a proportion of female employment based on the approximate ratio of female to male earnings. The same ratio has been used in each State, and because the average ratio of female to male earnings may vary between States, precise comparisons between average earnings in different States cannot be made on the basis of the figures above.

NOTE.—Comparisons as to trend should be made for complete years or corresponding periods of incomplete years. Quarterly totals and averages are affected by seasonal influences.

(ii) *Average Weekly Wage Earnings Index Numbers.*—The following table shows, for "All Industries" and for "Manufacturing", the movement in average weekly wage earnings from 1945–46 to the December Quarter, 1958. The "All Industries" index is based on Pay-roll Tax returns and other data. The index for manufacturing industries for the years 1945–46 to 1957–58 is based on the average earnings of male wage and salary earners employed in factories as disclosed by annual factory returns. Figures subsequent to June, 1958 are preliminary estimates based on Pay-roll Tax returns.

The index numbers show for "All Industries" and "Manufacturing" the movement in average earnings over a period of time. However, they do not give, at any point of time, a comparison of actual earnings in the two groups. The base of each series is the year 1945–46 = 1,000 and both series have been seasonally adjusted.

AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE EARNINGS(*a*) INDEX NUMBERS: AUSTRALIA.

REVISED SERIES (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED).

(*Base of each Series:* 1945–46 = 1,000.)

Year.	All Industries.(*b*)	Manufacturing.	Quarter.	All Industries.(*b*)	Manufacturing.
1945–46	1,000	1,000	1955–56—March Qtr. ..	2,866	2,862
1946–47	1,037	1,056	June ,, ..	2,922	2,901
1947–48	1,212	1,206			
1948–49	1,374	1,365	1956–57—Sept. ,, ..	2,979	2,945
1949–50	1,513	1,505	Dec. ,, ..	3,023	2,973
			March ,, ..	3,020	2,962
1950–51	1,816	1,809	June ,, ..	3,038	2,995
1951–52	2,221	2,219			
1952–53	2,428	2,394	1957–58—Sept. ,, ..	3,087	3,026
1953–54	2,553	2,511	Dec. ,, ..	3,105	3,066
1954–55	2,682	2,685	March ,, ..	3,093	3,075
			June ,, ..	3,102	3,089
1955–56	2,863	2,856			
1956–57	3,015	2,969	1958–59—Sept. ,, ..	3,178	3,148
1957–58	3,097	3,064	Dec. ,, ..	3,207	3,151

(*a*) Includes salaries. (*b*) Average earnings per male unit employed. Male units represent total male employment plus a proportion of female employment based on the approximate ratio of female to male earnings.

§ 3. Standard Hours of Work.

1. **General.**—In the fixation of weekly wage rates most industrial tribunals prescribe the number of hours constituting a full week's work for the wage rates specified. The hours of work so prescribed form the basis of the compilation of the index numbers on pages 49–52. The first year shown is 1914, at which time the 48-hour week was recognized as a standard working week for most industries. The main features of the reduction of hours from 48 to 40 per week are summarized below. In considering such changes it must be remembered that even within individual States the authority to alter conditions of labour is divided between Commonwealth and State industrial tribunals and the various legislatures, and that the State legislation usually does not apply to employees covered by awards of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission. However, it may do so in respect of matters not treated in Commonwealth awards.

2. **The 44-hour Week.**—No permanent reduction to a 44-hour week was effected until 1925, although temporary reductions had been achieved earlier. In 1920 the New South Wales legislature granted a 44-hour week to most industries, but in the following year this provision was withdrawn. Also in 1920 the President of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration (Higgins *J.*), after inquiry, granted a 44-hour week to the Timber Workers' Union, and in the following year extended the same privilege to the Amalgamated Society of Engineers. In 1921, however, a reconstituted Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration unanimously rejected applications by five trade unions for the shorter standard week and reintroduced the 48-hour week in the case of the above-mentioned two unions then working 44 hours. During 1924 the Queensland Parliament passed legislation to operate from 1st July, 1925, granting the 44-hour standard week to employees whose conditions of work were regulated by awards and agreements of the Queensland State industrial authority. Similar legislative action in New South Wales led to the re-introduction of the 44-hour week in that State as from 4th January, 1926.

In 1927 after an exhaustive inquiry the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration granted a 44-hour week to the Amalgamated Engineering Union and intimated that this reduction in standard hours of work would be extended to industries operating under conditions similar to those in the engineering industry. Applications for the shorter hours by other unions were, however, treated individually, the nature of the industry, the problem of production, the financial status and the amount of foreign competition being fully investigated. The economic depression delayed the extension of the standard 44-hour week until the subsequent improvement in economic conditions made possible its general extension to employees under Commonwealth awards.

In States other than New South Wales and Queensland no legislation was passed to reduce the standard hours of work so that, for employees not covered by Commonwealth awards, the change had to be effected by decisions of the appropriate industrial tribunals. In these cases the date on which the reduction to 44 hours was implemented depended on the decision of the tribunals in particular industries, employees in some industries receiving the benefit of the reduced hours years ahead of those in others. In these States the change to the shorter week extended over the years from 1926 to 1941.

3. **The 40-hour Week.**—(i) *Standard Hours Inquiry*, 1947.—Soon after the end of the 1939–45 War, applications were made to the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for the introduction of a 40-hour week, and the hearing by the Court commenced in October, 1945. Before the Court gave its decision the New South Wales Parliament passed legislation granting a 40-hour week, operative from 1st July, 1947, to industries and trades regulated by State awards and agreements, and in Queensland similar legislation was introduced in Parliament providing for the 40-hour week to operate from 1st January, 1948.

The Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, in its judgment on 8th September, 1947, granted the reduction to the 40-hour week from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in January, 1948. The Queensland Act was passed, and was proclaimed on 10th October, 1947. On 27th October, 1947, the South Australian Industrial Court, after hearing applications by unions, approved the incorporation of the 40-hour standard week in awards

of that State. The Court of Arbitration of Western Australia on 6th November, 1947, approved that, on application, provision for a 40-hour week could be incorporated in awards of the Court, commencing from 1st January, 1948.

In Victoria and Tasmania the Wages Boards met and also incorporated the shorter working week in their determinations, so that from the beginning of 1948 practically all employees in Australia whose conditions of labour were regulated by industrial authorities had the advantages of a standard working week of 40 hours or, in certain cases, less.

(ii) *Basic Wage and Standard Hours Inquiry*, 1952–53.—In the 1952–53 Basic Wage and Standard Hours Inquiry the employers sought an increase in the standard hours of work per week, claiming that "one of the chief causes of the high costs and inflation has been the loss of production due to the introduction of the 40-hour week".* This claim was rejected by the Court as it considered that the employers had not proved that the existing economic situation called for a reduction of general standards in the matter of the ordinary working week. (*See also* page 64.)

§ 4. Basic Wages in Australia.

1. **The Basic Wage.**—The concept of a "basic" or "living" wage is common to rates of wage determined by industrial authorities in Australia. Initially the concept was interpreted as the "minimum" or "basic" wage necessary to maintain an average employee and his family in a reasonable state of comfort. However, it is now generally accepted "that the dominant factor in fixing the basic wage . . . is the economic or productivity factor and that the basic wage must be the highest that industry as a whole can pay."†

Under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission (prior to June, 1956 the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration) may, for the purpose of preventing or settling an industrial dispute extending beyond the limits of any State, make an order or award altering the basic wage (that is to say, that wage, or that part of a wage, which is just and reasonable, without regard to any circumstance pertaining to the work upon which, or the industry in which, the person is employed) or the principles upon which it is computed.

In practice, the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission holds general basic wage inquiries from time to time and its findings apply to industrial awards within its jurisdiction. Prior to the decision of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, announced on 12th September, 1953, discontinuing the automatic adjustment of basic wages in Commonwealth awards in accordance with variations occurring in retail price index numbers, the relevant basic wage of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration was adopted to a considerable extent by the State Industrial Tribunals. In New South Wales and South Australia the State industrial authorities adopted the relevant Commonwealth basic wage. In Victoria and Tasmania, where the Wages Boards systems operate, no provision was included in the industrial Acts for the declaration of a basic wage, although Wages Boards have in the past generally adopted basic wages based on those of the Commonwealth Court. In Queensland and Western Australia the determination of a basic wage is a function of the respective State Industrial or Arbitration Courts and, subject to State law, they have had regard to rates

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 77, p. 505. † 44 *C.A.R.*, p. 57.

determined by the Commonwealth Court. Following the decision of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration to discontinue automatic quarterly adjustments to the basic wage, the various State industrial authorities determined State basic wages in accordance with the provisions of their respective State industrial legislation. Details of the action taken in each State and subsequent variations in State basic wages are set out in para. 5 (*see* pages 87–101).

In addition to the basic wage, " secondary " wage payments, including margins for skill, loadings and other special considerations peculiar to the occupations or industry, are determined by these authorities. The basic wage and the " secondary " wage, where prescribed, make up the " minimum " wage for a particular occupation. The term minimum wage (as distinct from the basic wage) is used currently to express the lowest rate payable for a particular occupation or industry.

In §1 of this chapter (pages 30–40) particulars are given of the current Commonwealth and State industrial Acts and the industrial authorities established by these Acts. The powers of these authorities include the determination and variation of basic wage rates.

2. **The Commonwealth Basic Wage.**—(i) *Early Judgments.*—The principle of a living or basic wage was propounded as far back as 1890 by Sir Samuel Griffith, Premier of Queensland, but it was not until the year 1907 that a wage, as such, was declared by a Court in Australia. The declaration was made by way of an order in terms of section 2 (*d*) of the Excise Tariff 1906 in the matter of an application by H. V. McKay that the remuneration of labour employed by him at the Sunshine Harvester Works, Victoria, was " fair and reasonable ".

The Commonwealth Parliament had by the Act imposed certain excise duties on agricultural implements, but provided that the Act should not apply to goods manufactured in Australia " under conditions as to the remuneration of labour which are declared by the President of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration to be fair and reasonable ". Mr. Justice Higgins, President of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, discussed at length the meaning of " fair and reasonable ", and defined the standard of a " fair and reasonable " minimum wage for unskilled labourers as that appropriate to " the normal needs of the average employee, regarded as a human being living in a civilized community ".* The rate declared by the President in his judgment (known as the " Harvester Judgment ") was 7s. a day or £2 2s. a week for Melbourne, the amount considered reasonable for " a family of about five ".† According to a rough allocation by the Judge, the constituent parts of this amount were £1 5s. 5d. for food, 7s. for rent, and 9s. 7d. for all other expenditure.

The " Harvester " standard was adopted by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for incorporation in its awards, and practically the same rates continued until the year 1913, when the Court took cognizance of the retail price index numbers, covering food and groceries and rent of all houses (" A " Series) for the 30 more important towns of Australia, which had been published by the Commonwealth Statistician for the first time in the preceding year. The basic wage rates for towns were thereafter varied in accordance with the respective retail price index numbers. Court practice was to equate the retail price index number 875 for Melbourne for the year 1907 to the " Harvester " rate of 42s. a week (or the base of the index

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 2, p. 3. † The average number of dependent children per family was apparently regarded by the Court as about three, although statistical information available at the time did not permit of exact figures being ascertained. For particulars of available information which may have been considered by the Court, *see* Labour Report No. 41, footnote on page 73.

(1,000) to 48s. a week). At intervals thereafter, as awards came before it for review, the Court usually revised the basic wage rate of the award in proportion to variations in the retail price index. In some country towns certain " loadings " were added by the Court to wage rates so derived to offset the effect of lower housing standards, and consequently lower rents, on the index number for these towns.

During the period of its operation, the adequacy or otherwise of the " Harvester " standard was the subject of much discussion, the author of the judgment himself urging on several occasions the need for its review. During the period of rapidly rising prices towards the end of the 1914–18 War, strong criticism developed that this system did not adequately maintain the " Harvester " equivalents. A Royal Commission was appointed in 1919 to inquire as to what it would actually cost a man, wife and three children under fourteen years of age to live in a reasonable standard of comfort, and as to how the basic wage might be automatically adjusted to maintain purchasing power. The Commission's Reports were presented in November, 1920 and April, 1921.* An application by the unions to have the amounts arrived at by the inquiry declared as basic wage rates was not accepted by the Court because they were considerably in advance of existing rates and grave doubts were expressed by members of the Court as to the ability of industry to pay such rates.

The system of making automatic quarterly adjustments to the basic wage in direct ratio to variations in the retail price index (" A " Series) was first introduced in 1921. The practice then adopted was to calculate the adjustments to the basic wage quarterly on the index number for the preceding quarter. Previously adjustments had been made sporadically in relation to retail price indexes for the previous calendar year or the year ended with the preceding quarter. The practice adopted by the Commonwealth Court in 1921 of making automatic quarterly adjustments continued until the Court's judgment of 12th September, 1953.†

In 1922 an amount known as the " Powers' 3s." was added by the Court‡ as a general " loading " to the weekly basic wage, for the purpose of maintaining, during a period of rising prices, the full equivalent of the " Harvester " standard. This loading continued until 1934.

(ii) *Basic Wage Inquiries*, 1930–31, 1932, 1933.—No change was made in the method of fixation and adjustment of the basic wage until the onset of the depression, which began to be felt severely during 1930. Applications were then made to the Court for some greater measure of reduction of wages than that which resulted from the automatic adjustments due to falling retail prices. The Court held a general inquiry, and, while declining to make any change in the existing method of calculating the basic wage, reduced all wage rates under its jurisdiction by 10 per cent. from 1st February, 1931.§ In June, 1932, the Court refused applications by employee organizations for the cancellation of the 10 per cent. reduction of wage rates.|| In May, 1933 the Court again refused to cancel the 10 per cent. reduction in wage rates, but decided that the existing method of adjustment of the basic wage in accordance with the " A " Series retail price index number had resulted in some instances in a reduction of

* *See* Labour Report No. 41, 1952, pp. 102 and 103 for a summary of the Commission's findings.
† *See* p. 65. ‡ *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 16, p. 32. § 30 *C.A.R.*, p. 2.
|| 31 *C.A.R.*, p. 305.

more than 10 per cent. In order to rectify this the Court adopted the " D " Series of retail price index numbers for future quarterly adjustments of the basic wage.*

(iii) *Basic Wage Inquiry*, 1934.—The " Harvester " standard, adjusted to retail price variations, continued to be the theoretical basis of the basic wage of the Commonwealth Court until the Court's judgment, delivered on 17th April, 1934,† declared new basic wage rates to operate from 1st May, 1934. The new rates were declared on the basis of the respective " C " Series retail price index numbers for the various cities for the December quarter, 1933, and ranged from 61s. for Brisbane to 67s. for Sydney and Hobart, the average wage for the six capital cities being 65s.

The 10 per cent. special reduction in wages referred to above ceased to operate upon the introduction of the new rates, and the automatic quarterly adjustment of the basic wage in accordance with variations in retail price index numbers was transferred from the " A " and the " D " Series to the " C " Series Retail Price Index.‡ The base of the index (1,000) was taken by the Court as equal to 81s. a week. The new basic wage for the six capital cities was the same as that previously paid under the " A " Series, without the " Powers' 3s." and without the 10 per cent. reduction. For further particulars of the judgment in this inquiry *see* Labour Report No. 26, page 76.

(iv) *Basic Wage Inquiry*, 1937.—In May and June, 1937, the Commonwealth Court heard an application by the combined unions for an increase in the basic wage. The unions asked that the equivalent of the base (1,000) of the " C " Series index be increased from 81s. to 93s., which on index numbers then current would have represented an average increase of about 10s. a week. The chief features of the judgment, delivered on 23rd June,§ were:—

(*a*) Amounts were added to the basic wage not as an integral, and therefore adjustable, part of that wage, but as " loadings " additional to the rates payable under the 1934 judgment. The wage assessed on the 1934 basis was designated in the new judgment as the " needs " portion of the total resultant basic wage. These loadings, referred to as " Prosperity " loadings, were 6s. for Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane; 4s. for Adelaide, Perth and Hobart; and 5s. for the six capitals basic wage. " Prosperity " loadings for the basic wage for provincial towns in each State, for combinations of towns and combinations of capital cities, and for railway, maritime and pastoral workers were also provided for in the judgment.

(*b*) The minimum adjustment of the basic wage was fixed at 1s. a week instead of 2s.

(*c*) The basis of the adjustment of the " needs " portion of the wage in accordance with the variations shown by retail price index numbers was transferred from the " C " Series to a special " Court " Series based upon the " C " Series. (*See* page 5.)

(*d*) Female and junior rates were left for adjustment by individual judges when dealing with specific awards.

The main parts of the judgment were reprinted in Labour Report No. 28, pages 77–87.

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* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 32, p. 90. For further particulars *see* Labour Report No. 22, pp. 45–8 and Labour Report No. 23, pp. 45–62. † 33 *C.A.R.*, p. 144. ‡ For explanation of the " A ", " C " and " D " Series *see* page 4 of this Report. § 37 *C.A.R.*, p. 583.

(v) *Judgment, December*, 1939.—The Commonwealth Court on 19th December, 1939 heard an application by trade unions for an alteration in the date of adjustment of the basic wage in accordance with the variations in the " Court " Series of index numbers. On the same day, the Court directed that such adjustments be made operative from the beginning of the first pay-period to commence in February, May, August or November, one month earlier than the then current practice.*

(vi) *Basic Wage Inquiry*, 1940.—On 5th August, 1940 the Full Court commenced the hearing of an application by the combined unions for an increase in the existing basic wage by raising the value of 1,000 (the base of the " C " Series index upon which the " Court " Series was based) from 81s. to 100s. a week, and the incorporation of the existing " Prosperity " loadings in the new rate. In its judgment of 7th February, 1941† the Court unanimously refused to grant any increase, and decided that the application should not be dismissed but stood over for further consideration after 30th June, 1941. The application was refused mainly because of the uncertainty of the economic outlook under existing war conditions.

Concerning the concept of a basic wage providing for the needs of a specific family unit, Chief Judge Beeby in his judgment stated:—" The Court has always conceded that the ' needs ' of an average family should be kept in mind in fixing a basic wage. But it has never, as the result of its own inquiry, specifically declared what is an average family, or what is the cost of a regimen of food, clothing, shelter and miscellaneous items necessary to maintain it in frugal comfort, or that a basic wage should give effect to any such finding. In the end economic possibilities have always been the determining factor. . . . what should be sought is the independent ascertainment and prescription of the highest basic wage that can be sustained by the total of industry in all its primary, secondary and ancillary forms. . . . More than ever before wage fixation is controlled by the economic outlook."

The Chief Judge suggested that the basic wage should be graded according to family responsibilities and that, notwithstanding the increase in aggregate wages, a reapportionment of national income to those with more than one dependent child would be of advantage to the Commonwealth. The relief afforded to those who needed it would more than offset the inflationary tendency of provision for a comprehensive scheme of child endowment. If a scheme of this nature were established, future fixations of the basic wage would be greatly simplified. (The Child Endowment Act came into operation on 1st July, 1941. *See* § 6 of this chapter for the main features as at 31st December, 1958.)

(vii) " *Interim* " *Basic Wage Inquiry*, 1946.—The Court, on 25th November, 1946, commenced the hearing of this case as the result of (*a*) an application made on 30th October, 1946 (during the course of the Standard Hours Case) by the Attorney-General of the Commonwealth for the restoration to the Full Court List of certain adjourned 1940 basic wage applications (*see* (vi) above); (*b*) a number of fresh cases which had come to the Court since 1941; and (*c*) an application by the Australian Council of Trade Unions on behalf of trade unions for an " interim " basic wage declaration.

Judgment was delivered on 13th December, 1946,‡ whereby an increase of 7s. was granted in the adjustable portion of the basic wage then current to operate from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in the month of December, 1946, except in the case of casual and maritime workers, for whom the increases operated from 1st December.

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 41, p. 520. † 44 *C.A.R.*, p. 41. ‡ 57 *C.A.R.*, p. 603.

For the purpose of automatic quarterly adjustments a new "Court" Series of index numbers was created by increasing the base index number (1923–27) from 81.0 to 87.0. The "Court" Series index number calculated on this base for the September quarter, 1946 effected an increase in the basic wage for the weighted average of the six capital cities (as a whole) from 93s. to 100s. A similar increase of 7s. was recorded in the basic wage for each capital city except Hobart, where the amount was 6s. All "loadings" on the basic wage were retained at their existing amounts unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

This new series was designated "Court Index (Second Series)" to distinguish it from the "Court Index (First Series)" which was introduced after the 1937 Basic Wage Inquiry. The new "Court" index numbers were obtained by multiplying the "C" Series retail price index numbers (Base: 1923–27 = 1,000) by the factor 0.087, and taking the result to the first decimal place.

The wage rates for adult females and juveniles were to be increased proportionately to the increase granted to adult males, the amount of the increase being determined by the provisions in each award. For further particulars of the judgment *see* Labour Report No. 38, page 79.

(viii) *Basic Wage Inquiry*, 1949–50.—This finalized the case begun in 1940 and continued in 1946 (*see* above). In 1946, during the hearing of the Standard Hours Inquiry and following the restoration to the Full Court List of applications for an increased basic wage, the Chief Judge ruled that the claim for an increase in the basic wage should be heard concurrently with the "40-hour week" claims then before the Court. The unions, however, objected to this course being followed, and, on appeal to the High Court, that Court in March, 1947, gave a decision which resulted in the Arbitration Court proceeding with the "Hours" Case to its conclusion.

The Basic Wage Inquiry, 1949–50, finally opened in February, 1949, and the general hearing of the unions' claims was commenced on 17th May, 1949. Evidence was completed on 22nd August, 1950, and the three Judges (Kelly *C.J.*, Foster and Dunphy *JJ.*) delivered separate judgments on 12th October, 1950.* In those judgments, which were in the nature of general declarations, a majority of the Court (Foster and Dunphy *JJ.*) was of the opinion that the basic wage for adult males should be increased by £1 a week, and that for adult females should be 75 per cent. of the adult male rate. Kelly *C.J.*, dissenting, considered that no increase in either the male or the female wage was justified.

On 24th October, 1950 and 23rd November, 1950 the Court made further declarations regarding the "Prosperity" loading of 1937 (*see* page 61), which was being paid at rates between 3s. and 6s. a week according to localities, etc., and the future basis of quarterly adjustments. The "Prosperity" loading was standardized at a uniform rate of 5s. a week for all localities and was declared to be an adjustable part of the basic wage. The Court also declared that the "War" loadings were not part of the basic wage. With regard to other "loadings" the Court, on 17th November, 1950, proceeded to examine the individual awards in the claims before it, for the purpose of determining to what extent such "loadings" formed part of the basic wage. Any "loading" declared to be part of the basic wage ceased to be paid as a separate entity, but apart from the special case of the Australian Capital Territory there were very few "loadings" which fell within this category. The new

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 68, p. 698.

rates operated from the beginning of the first pay-period in December, 1950, in all cases being the rate based on the " Court " Index (2nd Series) for the September quarter, 1950 plus a flat-rate addition of £1, together with the standardized " Prosperity " loading of 5s.

The basic wage rate for the six capital cities (weighted average) arrived at by the Court after applying the foregoing declarations was £8 2s., comprising £6 17s. Court (2nd Series) plus 5s. uniform " Prosperity " loading plus the £1 addition. The declaration provided that the whole of this basic wage would be subject to automatic quarterly adjustments as from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in February, 1951, on the basis of the index numbers for the December quarter, 1950. For this purpose the new rate of £8 2s. was equated to the " C " Series retail price index number 1572 for the six capital cities (weighted average) for the September quarter, 1950. From this equation was derived a new " Court " Index (Third Series) with 103.0 equated to 1,000 in the " C " Series Index.

The basic wage rates operative in November, 1950, in comparison with those operative from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in December, 1950, are shown below:—

Date of Operation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals.
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
November, 1950 ..	146 0	143 0	135 0	137 0	139 0	139 0	142 0
December, 1950 ..	165 0	162 0	154 0	158 0	160 0	160 0	162 0

(ix) *Basic Wage and Standard Hours Inquiry*, 1952–53.—On 5th August, 1952, the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration began hearing claims by:—

1. The Metal Trades Employers' Association and other employers' organizations—
   - (*a*) that the basic wage for adult males be reduced;
   - (*b*) that the basic wage for adult females be reduced;
   - (*c*) that the standard hours of work be increased;
   - (*d*) that the system of adjusting the basic wages in accordance with variations occurring in retail price index numbers be abandoned.
2. The Metal Trades Federation, an association of employees' organizations, that the basic wage for adult males be increased, which would also have resulted in increasing the amount, though not the proportion it bore to the basic wage for adult males, of the basic wage for adult females.

A number of Governments, organizations and other bodies obtained leave to intervene and in this role the Australian Council of Trade Unions supported the claims of the Metal Trades Federation.

The Court consisted of Kelly *C.J.*, Foster, Kirby, Dunphy, Wright, McIntyre and Morgan *JJ.*, but before the hearing of evidence commenced Wright *J.* withdrew and during the hearing of the case Foster *J.* withdrew from the bench. The Court gave its decision on 12th September, 1953, and stated that reasons for its decision would be delivered later. McIntyre *J.* died before the reasons for the judgment could be delivered.

In the early stages of the case the employers applied for an immediate and separate hearing on the question of suspension of the basic wage adjustment provisions in awards. However, after hearing argument, the Court indicated that it was not satisfied that a sufficient case had been made out for such a separate hearing.

Evidence in the employers' case began on 16th September, 1952. On completion of the employers' case the counsel for employee organizations submitted that there was no case to answer and asked for the dismissal of the case. The Court rejected this claim and the hearing of evidence for the employee organizations was concluded on 11th September, 1953.

The decision of the Court, announced on 12th September, 1953, was expressed in the following terms:—

"1. The employers' applications for reduction of the current basic wages for adult males and for reduction of the current basic wages for adult females are refused.

2. The employers' applications for an increase of the standard hours of work in the industries covered thereby are refused.

3. The employers' applications for omission or deletion of clauses or sub-clauses providing for the adjustment of basic wages are granted.

4. The Unions' applications for increases of basic wages are refused.

The Court makes orders accordingly, to operate as from today.

The reasons for the above decision will be delivered at a later date.

The form of the appropriate orders will be settled by the Industrial Registrar."

The reasons for the above decision were delivered on 27th October, 1953.

The Court in the course of its judgment said that in the present case nothing had been put before it in support of a departure from its now well-established principle that the basic wage should be the highest that the capacity of the community as a whole could sustain. If the Court is at any time asked to fix a basic wage on a true needs basis, the question of whether such a method is correct in principle and all questions as to the size of the family unit remain open.

No evidence was submitted in the inquiry to suggest that the basic wage in its character of a "foundational wage" of providing, or helping to provide, a just and reasonable standard of living to employees whose income is based or dependent upon it, was inadequate, and the arguments of both the employers and employees were directed towards a basic wage based on the capacity of industry to pay.

The Court, in reviewing the claims of the respondents, in the light of the existing economic situation, indicated that although aware of the difficulties besetting industry and of the dependence of Australia's prosperity upon that large part of her productive effort whose rewards are conditioned by good seasons and whose prices are largely beyond her control, the Court was satisfied that the employers had not discharged the onus of proving that the existing situation called for a reduction of general standards either in the matter of the basic wage or in the matter of the ordinary working week. On the other hand, the Court was satisfied that there could be, in the existing situation, no increase in the basic wage, as was claimed by the Metal Trades Federation.

The Court decided to discontinue the system of automatic adjustment of the basic wage in accordance with variations in retail price index numbers while the basic wage was assessed on the capacity of industry. It was considered that " the further the Court has withdrawn from relating the basic wage to the fulfilment of any particular standard of needs, the less has become the justification for keeping the nominal wage ' automatically adjusted ' during the currency of an award ".* Moreover, there was no ground for assuming that the capacity of industry to pay will be maintained at the same level or that it will rise or fall coincidentally with the purchasing power of money. The Court found that the system of automatic adjustments had undoubtedly been an accelerating factor in the rapid increase in prices in Australia, particularly in the years 1951 and 1952, and this factor supported its decision to discontinue the system.

In regard to the basic wage for female employees, the Court decided that no basis existed, on the material presented to it, for a review of the existing ratio of the female to the male basic wage, the Court being satisfied that industry had the capacity to maintain the existing female basic wage rates.

In rejecting the claim for an increase in the standard hours of work, the Court considered that the industry of the country was healthy and prosperous enough at present to sustain the existing standard (i.e., 40 hours a week).

The Court intimated that time would be saved in future inquiries if the parties to the disputes, in discussing the principle of the " capacity to pay ", directed their attention to the broader aspects of the economy, such as indicated by a study of employment, investment, production and productivity, oversea trade, oversea balances, the competitive position of secondary industry and retail trade.

In order to remove certain misconceptions about the function of the Court, it was stated during the course of the judgment that " the Arbitration Court is neither a social nor an economic legislature. Its function under section 25 of the Act is to prevent or settle specific industrial disputes ".† However, this function must be exercised in the social and economic setting of the time at which it makes its decision. It must settle industrial disputes upon terms which seem to it to be just, having regard to conditions which exist at the time of its decision. In addition, the Court stressed that " the primary rule that a claimant is required to substantiate his claim should always be observed."‡

In accordance with its decision to abolish the automatic adjustment clause from its awards, the Court began, on 21st October, 1953, to deal with awards which were not actually affected by the original order. During this process the Court announced that it had no other method in mind in substitution of the automatic adjustment clauses. In fact the only issue before the Court was the abolition or retention of the adjustment principle and that issue had been determined. The basic wage as fixed by the Court in the new or amended clauses in awards was that operating from August, 1953, and no provision was made for its automatic quarterly adjustment. The last such adjustment had been made on the " Court " Series retail price index numbers for the June quarter, 1953.

After the Court had amended all the awards listed before it as a result of applications by one of the parties to the awards, the Court, on its own motion under section 49 of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 77, p. 497. † Ibid., p. 506. ‡ Ibid., p. 507.

Act, listed those awards not the subject of an application by one of the parties and then proceeded to delete the clauses providing for the automatic adjustment of the basic wage.

The power of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration to vary awards not the subject of an application by one of the parties was unsuccessfully challenged in the High Court of Australia.

(x) *Basic Wage Inquiry*, 1956.—On 14th February, 1956 the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, consisting of Kirby, Dunphy, Wright and Morgan *JJ.*, commenced hearing an application by the Amalgamated Engineering Union and others made by summons for alteration of the basic wage prescribed in the Metal Trades Award in the following respects:—namely, for an increase in the basic wage to the amount it would have reached if automatic quarterly ad ustments deleted by the Court in September, 1953 had remained in force; an increase of a further £1 in the basic wage; the re-introduction of automatic quarterly adjustments; and the abolition of what is known as the 3s. country differential. This application was regarded as a general application for variation of the basic wage in all awards of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.

All the claims made by the unions were opposed by the respondent employers. The Attorney-General of the Commonwealth intervened in the public interest under section 26 (1.) of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, and in the course of proceedings all six States were represented by counsel or a State official.

Counsel for the Commonwealth stressed that the Commonwealth appeared not as a party but in the public interest and supplied much factual and statistical material in a review of the economy from 1953. He submitted that the Australian economy " is to all appearances a prosperous economy," with two inherent weaknesses " in the state of our overseas trade and reserves " and " the rising tendency of costs and prices ". The Commonwealth made no submission as to the amount of the basic wage; however, it submitted that the Court had been correct in its decision of 1953 to abolish the system of automatic quarterly adjustments and that its grounds for doing so were valid.

The States of New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania supported the union claims for the re-establishment of the system of automatic adjustments and the raising of the basic wage to the levels indicated by current " C " Series index numbers, but made no submission at all regarding the union claims for a further increase of £1 a week for adult males. The State of South Australia opposed the re-introduction of automatic adjustments, but conceded that in making a review of the basic wage a substantial factor to be taken into account was the changed cost of living. However, as regards the union claim for an increase in the basic wage to the amount it would have reached if automatic quarterly adjustments deleted by the Court in September, 1953 had remained in force, together with a £1 increase in the basic wage, amounting in total to 35s. a week at that time, the State submitted without elaboration that there were grave doubts as to whether the increased basic wage to the extent asked by the applicant could be granted without serious damage to the economy. The State of Victoria neither supported nor opposed the union claims, either as an employer or as representing all interests in the community, but supplied to the Court comprehensive statements relating to activities of the State Departments and instrumentalities and estimates of the amounts and effects of the claims before the Court.

In delivering its judgment on 26th May, 1956, the Court rejected each claim made by the unions but decided to increase the adult male basic wage by 10s. a week, payable from the beginning of the first pay-period in June. As a result of this decision, the basic wage for adult females was increased by 7s. 6d. a week with proportionate increases for juniors of both sexes and for apprentices. The Court in its decision to increase the Commonwealth basic wage stated " it may be taken that the increase would have been more if the burden on the economy of the increases in the State basic wages had not been imposed ".*

The Court took the view that its decision in 1953 to abandon the system of quarterly adjustments was clearly right and that " so long as the assessment of the basic wage is made as the highest which the capacity of the economy can sustain, the automatic adjustment of that basic wage upon price index numbers cannot be justified, since movements in the index have no relation to the movements in the capacity of the economy ".† The Court was satisfied " that a basic wage assessed at the highest amount which the economy can afford to pay cannot in any way be arrived at on the current price of listed commodities. There is simply no relationship between the two methods of assessment."‡

" The Court's examination of the economy and of its indicators—employment, investment, production and productivity, overseas trade, overseas balances, the competitive position of secondary industry and retail trade—and its consideration of inflation and its possible disastrous extension has led to the Court's conclusion that the nation now has not the capacity to pay a basic wage of the amount to which automatic quarterly adjustments would have brought it."§

As far as the application for the abolition of the 3s. country differential was concerned, the Court stated: " The onus lies on a party seeking a change of present prescription to establish its case. The Court holds that the present claim for abolition of the country differential of 3s. has not been made out on the evidence and submissions presented to the Court and the claim is rejected."¶

In the course of setting out the reasons for its decision the Court considered the period over which the capacity of the economy should be assessed, and concluded: " A year has been found almost universally to be a sensible and practicable period for such a purpose in the case of trading institutions the world over. The Court considers—fortified by the Judges' experience of considering from time to time Australia's capacity—that a yearly assessment of the capacity of Australia for the purpose of fixing a basic wage would be most appropriate. We would encourage any steps to have the Court fulfil such a task each year . . . . . "§

(xi) *Basic Wage Inquiry*, 1956–57.—Following a summons filed on 26th October, 1956 by the Amalgamated Engineering Union and others, the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission in Presidential Session (consisting of Kirby *C.J.*, Wright and Ashburner *JJ.*) on 13th November, 1956 commenced to hear claims for alteration of the basic wage prescribed in the Metal Trades Award. The claims made were as follows:—

1. " For the increase of the basic wage in all its manifestations to the amount it would have reached if there had remained in the award provisions for automatic quarterly adjustments, which had been deleted in September, 1953, ... "

2. " For the re-insertion in the award of the provisions for the automatic quarterly adjustment of the basic wage . . . . . "‖

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 84, p. 227. † Ibid., p. 175. ‡ Ibid., p. 176.
§ Ibid., p. 177. ¶ Ibid., p. 179. ‖ Print No. A5436, p. 3.

In accordance with past practice this application in respect of the Metal Trades Award was treated by the Commission as a general application for alteration of the basic wage in all Federal awards.

By leave of the Commission the Australian Council of Salaried and Professional Associations intervened in support of the applicant unions.

The claims of the unions were opposed by the respondent employers. Victoria and South Australia were the only States to appear before the Commission and the Attorney-General of the Commonwealth intervened in the public interest under section 36 (1.) of the Conciliation and Arbitration Act.

The State of South Australia opposed the unions' claims and suggested that if, contrary to that State's opposition, an increase in the basic wage were prescribed, the Commission should first decide upon the increase to be added to the six capitals basic wage and then apportion that increase amongst the six capital cities on a basis accurately reflecting the differences in cost of living in the different cities.

The State of Victoria neither supported nor opposed the application by the unions and during the hearing, at the request of counsel for the employers, submitted statistics relating to Victorian State Government Departments and Instrumentalities.

The Attorney-General of the Commonwealth intervened in the public interest but the only issue on which his counsel made a positive submission was the application for the restoration of the automatic adjustment system. The Commonwealth opposed such a system whatever index were used. The Commonwealth did not make any submission in regard to the amount of the basic wage. However, counsel for the Commonwealth, after supplying information on all aspects of the national economy, made this general statement: " It is submitted that it remains true that any steps that would lead to a general increase in the level of demand and of the level of costs and prices would run counter to the best interests of the Australian economy at the present time ".* The Commonwealth also proposed that the Commission should, in the absence of an adjustment system, undertake an annual review of the basic wage.

The Commission decided that before it could reach a decision it would have to examine, in detail, three main issues, namely, (i) should the system of automatic adjustment be restored? (ii) should there be an increase in the basic wage and, if so, of what amount? and, (iii) should the increase, if there be one, be of a uniform amount, or should it be variable as between capital cities?

(i) *Should the System of Automatic Adjustment Be Restored?*—The Commission set out the reasons why the Court in 1953 repealed the provisions for automatic quarterly adjustment of the basic wage then contained in awards and orders of the Court. " The Court's decision was primarily based on the view that there is no justification for automatically adjusting in accordance with a price index a wage assessed as the highest that the capacity of the community as a whole can sustain."†

Counsel for the unions argued that the Court in 1956 had misdirected itself in holding that in its judgments given before 1953 the Court had been considering the capacity of the economy to bear the monetary wage at the time of making the decisions. He argued from judgments delivered in the period 1931 to 1950 that the Court was dealing with the capacity of the economy to pay a real wage. The Commission stated that " Even if, contrary to the

* Print No. A5436, p. 7. † Ibid., p. 9.

opinion of the Court in 1956, during that period [1931–1950] the Court had been considering the capacity to pay a real wage, ... the fact is that in 1953 and 1956, the issue on those occasions having been expressly raised and fought, the Court held that capacity to pay cannot be measured by a price index ".*

The argument of the unions' counsel continued " that it is a ' plain and inevitable principle ' that the capacity of the community to pay wages alters with the general level of prices and that the " C " Series index approximately measures the general level of prices and therefore approximately measures the capacity of the economy to pay ".*

The Commission rejected both sections of the unions' argument and the claim for restoration of automatic quarterly adjustments was refused.

(ii) *Should there be an Increase in the Basic Wage and, if so, of what Amount?* The Commission reaffirmed the principles used to determine the basic wage in the 1953 and 1956 judgments of the Court and accepted as correct the decision of the Court in 1956 to increase the then existing basic wages by 10s. This led the Commission to a comparison of the state of the national economy at the time of the 1956 basic wage inquiry and the current inquiry.

The Commission stated that " In assessing the highest basic wage that the community can afford to pay to employees covered by Federal awards account has been taken of the fact that somewhere about half the wage earners in Australia are entitled under State awards to a basic wage, not fixed in relation to the capacity of the community to pay . . . . "†

The Commission considered all aspects of the economy and in particular the indicators of oversea reserves, oversea balances, rural industries, production and productivity other than rural, investment including company profits, the competitive position of secondary industry, employment, retail trade, the relaxed policy of import restrictions and the reasons of the government for such relaxation, and above all the change for the better in Australia's trading position and her strengthened reserves and decided that the basic wages in federal awards should be increased.

The Commission decided that the increase to the six capital cities basic wage should be 10s. a week for adult males.

(iii) *Should the Increase be of a Uniform Amount?*—The historical background of differential rates of basic wage for respective cities and towns was examined by the Commission and it acknowledged that the Federal basic wage had two components. The first and greater component differs for each capital city and represents a rate of wage calculated by the use of " C " Series retail price index numbers for the June quarter, 1953, and the second component, common to all places, is the uniform 10s. awarded by the Court in 1956.

On the question of whether the increase should be of a uniform amount the alternatives open to the Commission appeared to be either to follow what the Court did in 1956, or to recalculate the inter-capital-city differentials of the newly-fixed standard basic wage according to the latest " C " Series index numbers. The Commission decided to grant an increase of a uniform amount, and stated, " The immediate reason impelling the Commission to its decision is the evidence given in these proceedings by the Acting Commonwealth Statistician, in the course of which he expressed emphatically the opinion that the relative levels of living costs in Australian capital cities are not, and cannot be, measured by retail price index numbers in current circumstances; also

* Print No. A5436, p. 10. † Ibid., p. 12.

that changes in relative living costs in this sense are a matter for consideration quite apart from retail price index numbers, at the same time conceding that some of the price index *data* could assist materially in measuring relative levels of living costs in Australian capital cities."*

In the judgment delivered on 29th April, 1957 the Commission rejected the claims made by the unions and granted a uniform increase of 10s. a week in the basic wage for adult males to come into effect from the first pay-period to commence on or after 15th May, 1957. As a result of this decision the basic wage for adult females was increased by 7s. 6d. with proportionate increases for juniors of both sexes and for apprentices. The Commission also advised that it approved an annual review of the basic wage and would be available for this purpose in February, 1958. However, although favouring an annual review of the basic wage, the Commission considered that " it would not be proper for it nor would it wish to curtail the existing right of disputants to make an application at whatever time they think it necessary to do so ".†

(xii) *Basic Wage Inquiry*, 1958.—On 18th February, 1958, the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission, constituted in Presidential Session by Kirby *C.J.* (President), Wright and Gallagher *JJ.* (Deputy Presidents), commenced hearing an application by respondent unions for the following variations of the existing Metal Trades Award, namely:—

> " By increasing the amounts of basic wage prescribed therein for respective cities, towns and localities to the figure they each would have reached had the quarterly adjustment system based on the " C " Series retail price index numbers been retained, plus an addition of 10s. to each basic wage, and by making provision for future adjustment of each of the new amounts at quarterly intervals by the application thereto of the same index numbers."‡

Applications by a large number of organizations of employees respondent to other awards of the Commission were joined with the application described above and treated as involved in the inquiry.

The claims for the restoration of quarterly adjustments and for basic wage increases were opposed by private employers and by the State of South Australia, which also contended that as the cost of living was much lower in Adelaide than in Melbourne and Sydney, greater disparities in basic wage rates than then existed should be determined if, against its submission, any general increase in the basic wage were decided upon.

Tasmania was the only other State represented and it appeared, without making submissions, in support of the union's application.

The Attorney-General of the Commonwealth intervened in the public interest under section 36 (1.) of the Conciliation and Arbitration Act, making submissions as to the main trends of the Australian economy.

Leave to intervene was granted to the Professional Officers' Association of the Commonwealth Public Service, three other organizations of medical and scientific workers employed in the Commonwealth Public Service and the Australian Council of Salaried and Professional Associations.

In its judgment, delivered on 12th May, 1958, the Commission rejected the submission by counsel for the Professional Officers' Association " that if the Commission is satisfied that there is in the community capacity to pay a higher wage bill, consideration should be given to the question whether

* Print No. A5436, p. 20. † Ibid., p. 23. ‡ Print No. A6079, p. 4.

that increased capacity should be reflected in an increased basic wage only or extended also to the marginal or secondary contents of aggregate wages and salaries."* The Commission stated that it did not conceive it to have been the policy or principle adopted by the Court up to 1956, or the Commission in 1957, to determine the basic wage level without regard to the general level of secondary wages, and even if the submission were acceptable as a matter of policy " it would involve an unjustifiable straining of the language and intention of the legislation to enable a large number of disputes and Public Service cases concerning marginal claims to be marshalled simultaneously, and also contemporaneously with the customary large numbers of basic wage claims ".†

The Commission also rejected the submission by counsel for the Australian Council of Salaried and Professional Associations that when the Commission looked at the capacity of industry to pay and gave an increase in the basic wage, it " always kept something in hand for a marginal claim which would probably be coming up."† In the opinion of the Commission, " the mere fact that the Court and the Commission have embraced and applied the doctrine of fixing the basic wage at the highest level which it is adjudged the economy can sustain is itself a refutation of any suggestion that some economic capacity has been ' kept in reserve ' for the satisfaction of known or potential marginal claims."†

The claim of the unions for the restoration of the 1953 basic wage standard was rejected by the Commission on the same grounds as in its 1957 judgment, in the course of which it remarked:—

> " Upon its more distant retrospect of the 1953 situation the Commission feels that it would be most unsafe to assume that the economy was then, or thereafter, capable of sustaining that year's rate as a ' standard ' in real terms."‡

The Commission then considered the three specific issues before it, namely, (i) should the system of automatic adjustments be restored? (ii) should the basic wage be increased, and if so, by what amount? and (iii) should there be uniform or disparate increases?

(i) *Should the System of Automatic Adjustments be Restored*?—In its 1957 judgment the Commission rejected a similar application and in giving reasons for its decision made it clear that it had rejected the argument advanced by counsel for the unions, namely, that the capacity of the community to pay wages alters with the general level of prices and therefore approximately measures the capacity of the economy to pay and that the " C " Series Index is a proper index for this purpose.

In this case, counsel for the unions submitted that the unions still regarded the " C " Series index as a proper guide for the determination of basic wage levels but that if this contention continued to be unacceptable to the Commission there should be an immediate decision upon principle and later, if need be, an inquiry in an effort to ascertain a proper price index. He also submitted that there should be, from time to time, additions to wages to afford to workers their proper share of increased productivity and efficiency and that, although the unions had never claimed that increments for increased productivity could under present circumstances be made by way of automatic adjustment, the objective of wage increases commensurate with price increases could best be achieved by the use of an automatic adjustment system.

* Print No. A 6079, p. 5. † Ibid., p. 7. ‡ Ibid., p. 8.

After having considered the submissions and without hearing arguments against the proposition, the Commission, on 21st February, 1958, rejected the application for the restoration of automatic adjustments and for a deferred inquiry thereon.

In the reasons for its judgment the Commission stated that there was nothing in the submission to justify a departure from the decisions of 1953, 1956 and 1957 to reject automatic wage adjustments and that the reasons for rejection given in the earlier decisions still applied with equal cogency. " It is the firm conviction of the Commission that alterations [in the basic wage] should be made, not in an arbitrary manner under regulation by an index of prices but only after a full and open inquiry at which all relevant points of view, those of employers, employees and of the public alike, receive due examination and consideration. The Commission is easy of access and applications for review of the basic wage are capable of being dealt with expeditiously."* The Commission also referred to its 1956 judgment, in which it was stated that a yearly assessment of the capacity of Australia for the purpose of fixing a basic wage would be most appropriate.

(ii) *Should the Basic Wage be Increased and if so by what Amount*?—After hearing arguments for and against an increase in the basic wage rates, and submissions, mainly statistical, on behalf of the Commonwealth, the Commission was unanimously of the opinion that the position of the economy regarded as a whole was such as to justify an increase in the basic wage, but a difference of opinion existed as to what the amount of the increase should be.

A majority of the members, namely, Kirby, *C.J.* and Gallagher *J.*, took the view that there were a number of factors in the economy " which combine to make it unsafe and therefore undesirable in the interests of all to grant an increase higher than 5s. at the present time to a basic wage which was increased by the Court in 1956 and the Commission in 1957 to levels which they consider were the highest the economy could then sustain ".†

On the other hand, Wright *J.* considered that conclusions drawn from the material presented justified a basic wage level substantially higher than that proposed by the majority. This view was influenced to some extent, but by no means entirely, by the fact that unlike the majority he was convinced that the rates of basic wage resulting from the 1956 and 1957 increases might have been higher without unduly straining the capacity of the economy to sustain them.

Under section 68 of the Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1904–1956 the question was decided according to the decision of the majority.

Accordingly the decision of the Commission was that the rates of basic wage for adult males under Federal awards should each be increased by 5s. per week.

(iii) *Uniform or Disparate Increases*?—The South Australian Government submitted that economically there was no scope at all for a basic wage increase anywhere in Australia and, as in the 1957 inquiry, again pursued the question of inter-city differentials in those awards where it applied, as an answer to the union claim that the amount of the basic wage in Adelaide should be calculated by reference to the " C " Series retail price index numbers for that city. The substance of the State's case on inter-city differentials was that the actual cost of living was so much lower in Adelaide than in Melbourne and Sydney that greater disparities in basic wage rates than then existed should be determined by the Commission, if any general increase in the basic wage were decided upon.

* Print No. A6079, p. 12. † Ibid., p. 17.

Subject to a stipulation that no reduction should be made in the existing basic wage rate for Adelaide, counsel for the South Australian Government claimed that that rate should be approximately 10 per cent. below the rate fixed for Sydney, instead of approximately 5 per cent. below, as it then was.

He also claimed that the proposal had the support of South Australian employers, but in the Commission's view the employers had not spoken unitedly or unanimously, nor had anyone supported the proposal as put to the Commission. It concluded that the claim must be rejected on the ground that it would not be wise or just to apply it in South Australia in view of the fact that it was neither sought nor supported by any other party, and its application to the Government and its instrumentalities alone was not sought.

The Commission also recorded its view that before it could accept the contention of the South Australian Government regarding inter-city differentials it would need to be affirmatively decided " that the living costs and price fluctuations in that State comparatively with those in other States are capable of ascertainment to the degree of accuracy necessary for purposes of basic wage fixation; and that the differential principle of basic wage fixation based on living costs and price fluctuations in the different States is compatible with the ' capacity to pay ' doctrine accepted and acted upon by the Court and this Commission since at least 1953 ".*

The Commission indicated that the issues involved in inter-city differential wage rates were complex and could not be decided after a brief hearing. It was also recognized that Federal basic wages are anomalous in that as a matter of history they contain an ingredient decided in the past on a differential basis as well as an ingredient decided on a flat-rate basis.

" It goes without saying however that it is open to employers or unions generally or in combination or any of the States to make a substantive application for reconstruction of basic wages whether based on differential or flat-rate principles, but it seems that such an application would be more appropriate for investigation at a time when the question of a change in the amount of the basic wage is not under consideration by the Commission ".†

In the judgment delivered on 12th May, 1958, the decisions of the Commission were given in the following terms:—

" 1. The claim for restoration of automatic quarterly adjustments is refused.
2. The claim of the South Australian Government for special treatment is refused.
3. The basic wages of adult male employees covered by Federal awards will be increased by a uniform amount of 5s. per week.
4. The new rates will come into effect from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing on or after 21st May instant subject to special cases."‡

" In the Metal Trades Award and in awards generally the basic wage for adult females is prescribed at 75 per cent. of the basic wage for adult males. The result of the increase of the basic wage for adult males by 5s. per week will be to increase the basic wage for adult females in these awards to 75 per cent. of the new basic wage for adult males.

In those awards which do not contain such a provision but which prescribe basic wages for adult females of a stated amount equal to 75 per cent. of that for adult males the rate will be re-calculated to give effect to this decision.

In the Metal Trades and in many other awards the rates for juniors and apprentices of both sexes are prescribed at a percentage of the basic wage for

* Print No. A6079, p. 20. † Ibid., p. 21. ‡ Ibid., p. 2.

adults in which cases the existing provisions of the awards will cover proportionate increases for such juniors and apprentices. In awards which do not contain such provisions applications may be made to the Commission and will be dealt with by the appropriate member of the Commission ".*

(xiii) *Basic Wage Inquiry*, 1959.—The judgment was delivered on 5th June, 1959. Particulars of the claims made by employee organizations and the decision given will be found in Section VII. of the Appendix.

(xiv) *Rates Operative, Principal Towns.*—The " basic " wage rates of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission for adult males and females, operative in the principal towns of Australia as from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing on or after 21st May, 1958, are shown in the following table:—

COMMONWEALTH BASIC WAGE: WEEKLY RATES (*a*), MAY, 1958.

City or Town.	Rate of Wage.						City or Town.	Rate of Wage.				
	Males.			Females.				Males.			Females.	
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
New South Wales—							Western Australia—						
Sydney	13	8	0	10	1	0	Perth	13	1	0	9	15	6
Newcastle ..	13	8	0	10	1	0	Kalgoorlie	13	8	0	10	1	0
Port Kembla-Wollongong.. ..	13	8	0	10	1	0	Geraldton	13	14	0	10	5	6
Broken Hill ..	13	12	0	10	4	0	Five Towns (*b*) ..	13	2	0	9	16	6
Five Towns (*b*) ..	13	7	0	10	0	0	Tasmania—						
Victoria—							Hobart	13	7	0	10	0	0
Melbourne ..	13	0	0	9	15	0	Launceston.. ..	13	3	0	9	17	0
Geelong	13	0	0	9	15	0	Queenstown ..	12	18	0	9	13	6
Warrnambool ..	13	0	0	9	15	0	Five Towns (*b*) ..	13	5	0	9	18	6
Mildura	13	0	0	9	15	0	Thirty Towns (*b*) ..	13	1	0	9	15	6
Yallourn (*c*) ..	13	6	6	10	0	0							
Five Towns (*b*) ..	13	0	0	9	15	0	Six Capital Cities (*b*) ..	13	1	0	9	15	6
Queensland—							Northern Territory (*e*)—						
Brisbane	12	3	0	9	2	0	Darwin	14	0	0	10	10	0
Five Towns (*b*) ..	12	4	0	9	3	0	South of 20th Parallel	13	7	0	10	0	0
South Australia—							Australian Capital Territory—						
Adelaide	12	16	0	9	12	0	Canberra ..	13	3	0	9	17	0
Whyalla and Iron Knob (*d*) ..	13	1	0	9	15	6							
Five Towns (*b*) ..	12	15	0	9	11	0							

(*a*) Operative from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing on or after 21st May, 1958. (*b*) Weighted average. (*c*) Melbourne rate plus 6s. 6d. for males; 75 per cent. of male rate for females. (*d*) Adelaide rate plus 5s. for males; 75 per cent. of male rate for females. (*e*) *See* pp. 85 and 87 regarding special loadings.

The rate for provincial towns, other than those mentioned above, is 3s. less than that for their respective capital cities.

The rate for adult females is 75 per cent. of the male rate.

A table of adult male basic wage rates from 1923 to 1959 will be found in Section VIII. of the Appendix.

3. **Basic Wage Rates for Females.**—(i) *General.*—In its judgment of 17th April, 1934, wherein the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration laid down the basis of its " needs " basic wage for adult males, the Court made the following statement in regard to the female rate:—

> " The Court does not think it necessary or desirable, at any rate at the present time, to declare any wage as a basic wage for female employees. Generally speaking they carry no family responsibilities. The minimum

* Print No. A. 6079, p. 3.

wage should, of course, never be too low for the reasonable needs of the employee, but those needs may vary in different industries. In the variations now to be made the proportion in each award of the minimum wage for females to that of males will be preserved."*

The previous practice of the Court was therefore continued whereby each judge granted such proportion of the male rate as he deemed suited to the nature of the industry and the general circumstances of the case. Generally speaking, this proportion was in the vicinity of 54 per cent. of the male rate, although in some cases the proportion was about 56 per cent.

Until 1942 this continued to be substantially the practice of all Commonwealth and State industrial tribunals and in the main its continuance was then made mandatory by Part V. of the National Security (Economic Organization) Regulations which " pegged ", as at 10th February, 1942, all rates of remuneration previously prevailing in any employment. The only exceptions allowed were variations to rectify anomalies, variations resultant from hearings pending prior to 10th February, 1942 and " cost of living " variations.

In March, 1942, however, special action was taken to constitute a Women's Employment Board in conjunction with measures to encourage women to undertake, in war-time, work which would normally have been performed by men. This Board was given special jurisdiction to determine terms and conditions of such employment. The Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration and State Industrial Tribunals continued to determine rates of pay, etc., of women engaged in what may broadly be described as " women's work " in the pre-war sense, while the jurisdiction of the Women's Employment Board was made to cover women engaged during the war in work formerly performed by men or in new work which immediately prior to the outbreak of the war was not performed in Australia by any person.

In July, 1944, National Security (Female Minimum Rates) Regulations authorized the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration to make comprehensive investigations (*a*) as to whether minimum rates of wage payable to females in industries considered by the Government to be necessary for war purposes were unreasonably low in comparison with minimum rates payable to females in other essential industries, (*b*) if so, as to whether it was in the national interest, and fair and just, to increase such rates, and (*c*) as to the amount of such increases. Determinations could be made for any period specified by the Court but not extending beyond six months after the end of the war. In making such determinations the Court was not bound by Part V. of the National Security (Economic Organization) Regulations, although such regulations applied to the new rates after determination. The objective of the National Security (Female Minimum Rates) Regulations was to remove disparities which were creating discontent and impeding the manpower authority in redistributing female labour to vital industries. This review commenced in the Court on 23rd February, 1945 and ended on 23rd March, judgment being reserved.

Judgment was delivered by the Full Court on 4th May, 1945,† to the effect that, in regard to (*a*) above, the majority of the Full Court (Piper *C.J.*, O'Mara and Kelly *JJ.*) found itself unable to declare that the rates in the " referred "‡ industries were unreasonably low compared with those in the three industries submitted by the Crown and the union representatives as the standard rates for comparison, namely, those of the Clothing, Rubber and Metal industries, and that there was consequently no necessity to answer question (*b*). In a minority judgment, Drake-Brockman and Foster *JJ.* answered (*a*) and (*b*) in the affirmative.

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 33, p. 156. † 54 *C.A.R.*, p. 613. ‡ Twelve vital industries were " referred " by the Government for consideration.

Following this negative result, the Government, by National Security (Female Minimum Rates) Regulations (S.R., 1945, No. 139) dated 13th August, 1945, provided in respect of " vital " industries specified by the Minister by notice published in the *Gazette* that the remuneration of females employed therein should not be less than 75 per cent. of the corresponding minimum male rate. The validity of this Regulation was challenged in the High Court but, in a judgment dated 3rd December, 1945, the Court (Starke *J.* dissenting) held that the Regulations were a valid exercise of the powers under the National Security Act 1939–1943. The rates under this Regulation commenced to operate from 31st August, 1945.

As from 12th October, 1944, the Women's Employment Board was abolished. The function of the Board under the Women's Employment Act then devolved upon the Court as constituted by a judge designated by the Chief Judge. (*See* S.R. 1944, No. 149.)

The following sub-sections give a brief account of the functions allotted to and of the principles followed by the Women's Employment Board, and a summary of an important judgment delivered by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in 1943 stating the principles followed by the Court in fixing the basic rates payable to female workers and the difference between the rates payable to the women engaged in " women's work " and those payable to the special group of women engaged in " men's work " in war-time under the jurisdiction of the Women's Employment Board. The judgment also dealt with the question of anomalies as between the rates payable to the two classes of women workers.

(ii) *Women's Employment Board.*—The functions of the Women's Employment Board were specified by the Women's Employment Act 1942.* The purpose of the Act as expressed in the title was " to encourage and regulate the employment of women for the purpose of aiding the prosecution of the present war ". The jurisdiction of the Board was limited to females employed (after 2nd March, 1942) on work usually performed by males or which, immediately prior to the outbreak of the war, was not performed in Australia by any person.

Briefly, the functions of the Board were to decide what work and what female workers came within its jurisdiction (as defined) and the terms and conditions upon which women might be so employed, including hours and special conditions as to safety, welfare and health. The Board was required to fix rates of payment for such women with regard to their efficiency and productivity in relation to that of males engaged in such work and the Regulations provided that payment to females (engaged on "men's work") should be not less than 60 per cent. nor more than 100 per cent. of the male rate.

The Board ceased to function in 1944 but the Women's Employment Regulations continued to operate until 1949, when, by a judgment of the High Court, such continuation was declared invalid. A summary of the activities of the Board during its period of operation was given in previous issues of the Labour Report (*see* No. 36, page 84).

* The Board was originally created under regulations under the National Security Act 1939–1940, dated 25th March, 1942 (Statutory Rules 1942, No. 146), but owing to the disallowance of such regulations by the Senate on 23rd September, 1942, the Board operated as from 6th October, 1942, under the Women's Employment Act, No. 55 of 1942, which validated all previous decisions, etc., of the first Board (gazetted on 11th June, 1942). The second Board was created on 10th November, 1942.

(iii) *Judgment by Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.*—On 24th March, 1943, a case involving determination of general principles as to rates of wage of female employees not within the jurisdiction of the Women's Employment Board was remitted to the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration by the Minister for Labour and National Service under Regulation 9 of the National Security (Industrial Peace) Regulations, particularly as affecting female workers at Government small arms ammunition factories. The rates in these cases were considered by their trade union to be anomalous compared with those awarded by the Women's Employment Board to certain other women employed in those factories. The Court, in its judgment dated 17th June, 1943,* rejected the contentions of the union (The Arms, Explosives and Munition Workers Federation of Australia) and enunciated in full the principles followed by the Court in determining female rates of wage within its jurisdiction.

In order to place the matter in perspective in its relation to the basic wage for males, the Court traced the history of the principles on which the basic wage for males was determined from its original declaration by Mr. Justice Higgins in his " Harvester " judgment of 1907 (*see* page 59) and continued—

> " Although since 1930, when the ' economic or productivity factor ' emerged as the ' dominant factor ' in the problem of assessment (of the basic wage of adult male employees), the adequacy of the wage to meet the requirements of any ' specified family unit ' has been only a subsidiary consideration, subsidiary that is to say to the question of the capacity of the national production to sustain a particular wage level, it is plain that the Court has not held that its basic wage has been fixed at too low a figure to meet the normal and reasonable needs of a family of husband, wife and at least one child. Nor has its adequacy to that extent been questioned. In this sense it can still be regarded as a family wage, inasmuch as it has been accepted as sufficient at all events to provide ' frugal comfort ' for a man, his wife and at least one dependent child. For present purposes it is enough to say that, until a proper investigation demonstrates the contrary to be the case, we cannot but hold that the amount provided is more than sufficient to meet the normal and reasonable requirements of an unmarried worker with no dependants to support out of his earnings. And the same may be said of the living or basic wages determined by authorities functioning under State legislation as appropriate for male employees within their jurisdiction. The method of assessment of wage rates for adult male workers adopted and followed by industrial authorities throughout Australia has been to fix a basic wage portion adequate for the estimated needs of some family group and to add to that some additional payment in recognition of the skill or experience possessed by the worker or the special conditions met with in his particular occupation. The basic wage portion has had no reference to work value; it has been assessed in accordance with needs and it has never been either held or suggested to be inadequate to meet the normal and reasonable needs not only of the worker himself but also of his wife and at least one dependent child."

The Court in its judgment then set out decisions arrived at by various Commonwealth and State Courts since 1912, when the Commonwealth Court first dealt directly with the problem of women's wages. Mr. Justice Higgins dealt with the case, and stated " I fixed the minimum in 1907 of 7s. per day by

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 50, p. 191.

finding the sum which would meet the normal needs of an average employee, one of his normal needs being the need for domestic life. If he has a wife and children, he is under an obligation—even a legal obligation—to maintain them. How is such a minimum applicable to the case of a woman . . . . ? She is not, unless perhaps in very exceptional circumstance, under any such obligation. The minimum cannot be based on exceptional cases."

In respect of the " minimum rate " enjoined by the Commonwealth Arbitration Act, he held that " Nothing is clearer than that the ' minimum rate ' referred to in section 40 means the minimum rate for a class of workers, those who do work of a certain character. If blacksmiths are the class of workers, the minimum rate must be such as recognizes that blacksmiths are usually men. If fruit-pickers are the class of workers, the minimum rate must be such as recognizes that, up to the present at least, most of the pickers are men (although women have been usually paid less), and that men and women are fairly in competition as to that class of work. If milliners are the class of workers, the minimum rate must, I think, be such as recognizes that all or nearly all milliners are women, and that men are not usually in competition with them."*

In its review the Court stated " the fixation of the basic wage for women at amounts below 60 per cent. of that fixed for men has been general in the awards and determination of this Court and other industrial authorities of Australia ".

The Court laid down general principles in the following words:—

" It is beyond question that the general rule adopted and followed by the Australian industrial authorities in the assessment of wages for adult women workers, engaged upon work suitable for women in which they cannot fairly be said to be in competition with men for employment, has been and still is to fix a foundational amount, calculated with reference to the needs of a single woman who has to pay for her board and lodging, has to maintain herself out of her earnings, but has no dependants to support; and to add to this foundational or basic amount such marginal amounts as may be appropriate in recognition of the particular skill or experience of the particular workers in question or as compensation for the particular conditions which they encounter in their occupations . . . .

" Just as the wages for male workers are assessed by adopting first a foundational wage—the basic wage—and adding to it marginal amounts fixed according to the relative skill and experience of particular workers or groups of workers, or to the special conditions they encounter, so too are women's wages, for work suitable to them in which they will not be disadvantaged by male competition, fixed by adding to a foundational or basic amount analogous margins. But in each case the foundational wage is in principle and justice different. The man's basic wage is more than sufficient for his personal needs; it purports to provide him with enough to support some family. The women's, on the other hand, purports to be enough for her to maintain herself only. No allowance is made for the support of any dependants. The men's wage has been measured by this Court with reference to the dominating factor of the productive capacity of industry to sustain it and with due regard consequently to what its application in industry will mean, to the marginal structure which rises above it, and to the consequent wages which will in accordance with established rules and practice be paid to women and to minors.

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 6, p. 72.

"In the course of the hearing the Chief Judge drew attention to the necessity which would occur, if women's rates were to be assessed on the basis that relative efficiency and productivity (as between men and women) were to constitute the dominant factor, for a review of the principles in accordance with which the basic wage has been determined. That this necessity would arise must be apparent. For the basic wage for adult males has been fixed at as high an amount as the Court has thought practicable in all the circumstances of the case, including the circumstances of the existing proportionate levels of wages for women and minors. The share of men workers in the fruits of production will need to be reduced if women are to participate therein on an equal footing, or on a better footing generally than that to which they have hitherto been held to be entitled.

"It is desirable that we should indicate as clearly as possible the effect of the conclusions to which the review of the principles of wage assessment we have made has led us. It is that, so long as the foundational or basic wage for women is assessed according to a standard different from that which is the basis of the foundational or basic wage—a family wage—for men, the Court will not, in the exercise of its function of adjudicating between opposing interests, raise the general level of women's minimum wages in occupations suitable for women, and in which they do not encounter considerable competition from men, according to a comparison of their efficiency and productivity with the efficiency and productivity of men doing substantially similar work. To do so would at once depress the relative standard of living of the family as a group, and of its individual members, as compared with that of the typical single woman wage-earner."*

In December, 1943,† Drake-Brockman *J.*, in dealing with women employees in the Clothing (Dressmaking and Tailoring Sections) and Rubber industries, awarded for the duration of the war and for six months thereafter as a "flat rate" for the industry 75 per cent. of the "needs" basic wage, plus the "prosperity" and "industry" loadings ordinarily applicable. The reason for this action was (in the words of the judgment) as follows: "it was also common ground [between all the parties] that wastage of the employees in the industry during the last three years had been exceptionally heavy and that it was essential that some means should be found to attract women to the industry and thereafter to retain them for some reasonable period of time after they had been trained."

In July, 1944, the National Security (Female Minimum Wage) Regulations extended the discretion of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in fixing female minimum wage rates in "vital" industries in war-time as briefly described on page 76.

The Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1947 (*see* Labour Report No. 37, page 50) provided amongst other things that "a Conciliation Commissioner shall not be empowered to make an order or award altering . . . . . (*d*) the minimum rate of remuneration for adult females in an industry." As the result of doubts which arose as to the powers of the Commissioners to "fix" a basic wage, the matter came before the Full Court of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for clarification at the instance of several trade unions. Judgment was delivered on 27th July, 1948, and it was held that Conciliation Commissioners had jurisdiction to fix the female rates in question under the provisions of the Act, but it was also held that the provision referred only to the basic element in any prescribed female rates. Where, however, such a prescribed rate did not specifically fix

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 50, p. 191. † 51 *C.A.R.*, pp. 632 and 648.

or disclose the basic wage element, the appropriate Conciliation Commissioner had to fix the rate, and when such rate had been fixed its alteration became a matter for the Court. In view of the fact that there were fifteen Commissioners whose views might differ as to the element of the rates of pay of adult females which could be ascribed to an adult female basic wage analogous to the basic wage for adult males, the Government in December, 1948 passed an Act (No. 77 of 1948) further amending the above-mentioned Act to authorize the Court—and the Court alone—to fix the basic rate by providing that " a Conciliation Commissioner shall not be empowered to make an order or award . . . (*d*) determining or altering the minimum rate of remuneration for adult females in an industry."

A further amending Act (No. 86 of 1949) empowered the Court to determine or alter a " basic wage for adult females " which was defined as " that wage, or that part of a wage, which is just and reasonable for an adult female, without regard to any circumstance pertaining to the work upon which, or the industry in which, she is employed."

At the end of the 1949–50 Basic Wage Inquiry (*see* page 63), the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration by a majority decision fixed a new basic weekly wage for adult females at 75 per cent. of the corresponding male rate operative from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in December, 1950.

In the 1952–53 Basic Wage and Standard Hours Inquiry the employers claimed a reduction in the proportion the female basic wage bore to the male basic wage from 75 to 60 per cent. and based this claim on two grounds. The employers claimed that the existing ratio was unjust and unreasonable having regard to the principles of male basic wage fixation and also that the existing ratio constituted an additional burden on employers at a time when the economy was adversely affected by the level of wage costs. The first contention was based on the fact that the male basic wage was a family wage, whereas the female basic wage was to provide for only one person. The Court in its judgment stated that " no evidence was presented to enable it to assess the reasonable needs either of a family group, typical, average or appropriate or of a typical or average woman wage-earner whose wage should be within the concept of the definition of ' basic wage ' in section 25 "* (of the Conciliation and Arbitration Act).

On the second contention, the judgment stated that " the Court finds it impossible to say that the higher ratio of the women's basic wage to the men's, adopted by the 1950 decision, has resulted to date in either a significant degree of unemployment amongst women or, generally speaking, a comparatively greater wages cost burden having to be carried, at the expense of reasonable profits, by enterprises employing a relatively higher proportion of women workers."* The Court decided that there was no basis for a review of the existing ratio and ordered that the female basic wage should remain at 75 per cent. of the male basic wage.

4. **Australian Territories.**—(i) *Australian Capital Territory.*—Prior to 1922 the lowest rate payable to an unskilled labourer was not defined as a basic wage, as all wages were paid under the authority of the Federal Capital Commission as a lump sum for the particular occupation in which the worker was employed, but in 1922 an Industrial Board commenced to operate under a local Ordinance (*see* page 36). A summary of the decisions made by the Industrial Board during its period of operation was given in earlier issues of the Labour Report (*see* No. 40, page 89).

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 77, p. 504.

By an amending Ordinance, No. 4 of 1949, the Industrial Board was abolished and its functions were transferred to the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, which assigned a Conciliation Commissioner to the Australian Capital Territory. It was provided, however, that all orders and agreements in existence should continue to operate subject to later orders, awards and determinations made by the Court.

An amendment to the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, operative from 30th June, 1956, transferred the respective functions of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Court to the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission and the Commonwealth Industrial Court. The Conciliation Commissioner mentioned above, under the amended legislation, became the Commissioner for the Australian Capital Territory.

In reviewing the Australian Capital Territory awards following its decision of 12th October, 1950, the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration fixed the Canberra basic wage at £8 5s. a week for adult males, operative from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in December, 1950.* This amount was the "needs" basic wage as expressed by the Court's Second Series index number for Canberra for the September quarter, 1950, with the prescribed addition of £1 5s. The new rate represented an increase of 13s. 6d. a week over that previously payable.

Until August, 1953, the basic wage for the Australian Capital Territory was varied each quarter in accordance with movements in the "C" Series retail price index numbers. However, following a decision of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration to delete automatic adjustment clauses from its awards, etc. (*see* page 65), the basic wage for the Australian Capital Territory remained unchanged from August, 1953 until June, 1956, when an increase of 10s. became payable for adult males. Subsequently, two further increases, one 10s. and the other 5s., payable in May, 1957 and May, 1958 respectively, were made to the basic wage for adult males. The basic wage for the Australian Capital Territory, under awards of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission, payable as from the first pay-period on or after 21st May, 1958 was £13 3s. for adult males and £9 17s. for adult females.

(ii) *Northern Territory.*—The determination of the basic wage for this Territory comes within the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission.

There are, in fact, two basic wages operating—(*a*) in respect of areas north of the 20th parallel of south latitude, and generally referred to as the "Darwin" rate, and (*b*) in respect of areas south of that parallel. These are calculated on different bases as set out in the following paragraphs.

(*a*) *The Darwin Basic Wage.*—This wage was first determined by the Court in 1915† when the Deputy President (Powers *J.*) awarded a rate of £3 17s. a week, or 1s. 9d. an hour, for an unskilled labourer, which included a weekly allowance of 4s. for lost time.

The basic wage level again came under consideration when the wage for carpenters and joiners was reviewed by Mr. Justice Powers in 1916–17.‡ The Judge referred to an agreement dated 2nd June, 1916, between the Amalgamated Carpenters and Joiners and the Northern Agency (formerly Vestey Brothers), which provided for rates based on a budget of the estimated living requirements of a family consisting of a man, wife and two dependent children, amounting to £3 11s. 1d. a week. However, as the amount awarded (2s. 4d. an hour) for carpenters was over £5 a week, the Judge felt that a fair living wage was fully

Commonwealth Arbitration Reports, Vol. 69, p. 486. † 9 *C.A.R.*, p. 1. ‡ 11 *C.A.R.*, p. 51.

assured. His Honor stated that he did not find anything to cause him to alter the judgment given on 15th March, 1915, when he prescribed a wage of 1s. 9d. an hour.

Up till 1924 the practice of the Court had been to fix the basic wage in accordance with the principles laid down in 1916, and in connexion with an application in 1924 concerning the rate for employees of the Commonwealth Railways, when the wage for these workers stood at £5 4s. 6d., the Judge (Powers *J.*) refused to alter the wage. He stated that he had in mind the amount of £4 12s., to which he would have felt justified in adding £1 to compensate for the many disadvantages caused by isolation, especially the loss of or extra expense of the proper education of the children. He considered, therefore, that the wage of £5 4s. 6d. then payable contained a special allowance on such account, and that the question of such special allowances was a matter for employers and employees to settle between themselves.*

In 1927† Judge Beeby also referred to the regimen of 1916, and implied that since then it had formed the foundation of the basic wages fixed by the Court, and that the sufficiency of the regimen, except as to rent and one or two minor omissions, had never been questioned. On this occasion he fixed the basic wage at £5 10s. a week, or 2s. 6d. an hour, including £1 a week district allowance which was suggested by Mr. Justice Powers in his 1924 award as being a reasonable amount.

As there was no adjustment clause in operation in Territory awards, the basic wage of £5 10s. a week remained in operation until 1934 (except for the reduction by the Financial Emergency Act 1931 to £4 16s. 3d.).

In 1934‡ the Full Court for the first time considered the basic wage. The Court brought the regimen of the 1916 agreement up to date, altered the rent figure from 45s. to 65s. a month, and arrived at the amount of £4 10s. 9d. a week. This was £1 4s. 9d. above the Court's "needs" basic wage recently declared for the six capital cities, the Court regarding the difference as representing the extra amount required to purchase the same standard of living as in the six capital cities, with nothing by way of compensation allowance. Automatic adjustment provisions first introduced into the awards by this judgment were effected by inserting an appropriate adjustment scale based on the equation of £4 10s. 9d. to the Food and Groceries retail price index number (Special) 1,184 for Darwin for the month of August, 1934.

In 1938§ the Court granted a "loading" of 3s. a week on the wage because the Commonwealth Government had extended to the Territory its general civil service increase of £8 a year.

In 1939 an additional amount was added to the basic wage as a special loading to offset the increase in the cost of living not reflected by the index numbers. The loading was 16s. 3d. for employees on works and 10s. for railway employees.|| In February, 1940, before an automatic adjustment increase of 2s. became payable, the Court suspended the adjustment clause pending further inquiry.¶

In 1941** the Full Court again reviewed the basic wage and, after a full investigation of its past history, awarded £5 12s. 9d., made up of (*a*) £4 10s. 9d. awarded in 1934; (*b*) 4s. in respect of accrued adjustments since 1939; (*c*) 5s. additional allowance for rent; and (*d*) two constant (unadjustable) "loadings" of 3s. and 10s. a week. The Court also restored the adjustment clause by equating £4 15s. 9d. of the foregoing amounts (£4 10s. 9d. plus 5s. rent) to the

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 20, p. 737. † 25 *C.A.R.*, p. 898. ‡ 33 *C.A.R.*, p. 944. § 39 *C.A.R.*, p. 501. || 40 *C.A.R.*, p. 323 and 41 *C.A.R.*, p. 269. ¶ 42 *C.A.R.*, p. 164. ** 44 *C.A.R.*, p. 253.

base index 1,184 of the former adjustment scale (based solely on the Food and Groceries price index number). This, however, never became effective, because it was superseded early in 1942 by the Blakeley Orders referred to below. The two " loadings " were not made adjustable. All other " loadings " mentioned above were dropped.

The basis of adjustment was altered by A. Blakeley, *C.C.*, by Orders dated 29th January, 1942,* owing to the urgent necessity to provide, over the period of the war, for adjustments in respect of rent, clothing and other miscellaneous items of domestic expenditure which, with the exception of rent, had already increased considerably in price throughout Australia, and threatened to increase further as the war continued. Adjustment by means of the Food and Groceries Index only was therefore no longer doing justice to the workers of the Territory, since the workers elsewhere in Australia were enjoying the benefit derived from the adjustment of their wages by means of the more comprehensive " C " Series retail price index.

As there was no " C " Series retail price index for the Territory, nor was it possible to compile one on the basis of prices in Darwin, the only alternative was to create a " composite " index with the help of prices for these additional items from some other town of somewhat similar living conditions. The town selected as being most suitable for this purpose was Townsville, and the " composite " index was therefore computed on the basis of food and groceries prices in Darwin, combined with Townsville prices for rent, clothing and other miscellaneous items of domestic expenditure mentioned above, the index being designated " The Darwin Special ' All Items ' Index ".

Taking the December quarter, 1940, as a suitable period upon which adjustments should be based, for which quarter the Special " All Items " index number was 1,036, the Court's basic wage of £4 19s. 9d. (including 4s. for accrued adjustments) declared in its judgment of 7th April, 1941† was related (not " equated ") to the index number division (1031–1043) containing index number 1,036 of the " C " Series adjustment scale formerly used by the Court in its awards (Base: 1923–27 = 1,000 = 81s.), thus giving workers in the Territory the same basis of adjustment as that operating in respect of all workers throughout Australia coming within the jurisdiction of the Court. It should be noted in this connexion that the Court's " needs " equivalent of index number 1,036 was 84s., so that 15s. 9d. of the Darwin wage was left " unadjustable ". The rate payable from 1st February, 1942 (when the new basis first became operative), on the basis of index number 1,099 for the December, quarter, 1941, was therefore £5 17s. 9d., inclusive of 5s. by adjustments under the scale since the December quarter, 1940 (1,036), and the two unadjustable " loadings " of 3s. and 10s. granted by the Court's judgment of 7th April, 1941.

Following the bombing of Darwin on 19th February, 1942, and on subsequent occasions, it was no longer possible to obtain even food and groceries prices in Darwin, and a system was introduced by which food and grocery prices in the Special Index for Darwin were varied in accordance with fluctuations in food and grocery prices in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek.‡

On an application by the unions for the addition to the basic wage in the Territory of the amount of 7s. a week added by the Court elsewhere in Australia by its " Interim " Basic Wage Judgment of 13th December, 1946 (*see* page 62), the Full Court, on 13th March, 1947, decided to postpone the matter pending a general review of the basic wage in the Territory, although the Court granted the amount in the case of areas south of the 20th parallel

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 46, p. 411. † 44 *C.A.R.*, p. 253. ‡ 48 *C.A.R.*, p. 20.

of south latitude (*see* below). This further review was opened in Darwin with preliminary evidence taken by J. H. Portus, *C.C.*, on 16th February, 1948, and ultimately dealt with by the Full Court in Adelaide on 20th May, 1948. The Court made an " interim " judgment, pending the hearing and finalization of the 1949–50 basic wage inquiry (*see* page 63), granting the current equivalent of the 7s. referred to above, namely, 8s. In the judgment the Court adopted as from the March quarter, 1948, the new Darwin Special " All Items " Index (containing the restored prices of food and groceries for Darwin proper, plus Townsville prices for rent, clothing and miscellaneous items), namely, 1,283, and transferred the basis of adjustment from the existing automatic adjustment scale (" C " Series) on 1,000 = 81s. a week to the new scale on 1,000 = 87s. a week—in conformity with the " Court " Index (2nd Series). The new basic wage was to come into operation from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing after 20th May, 1948. The resultant total basic wage payable was therefore £7 0s. 9d., made up of £5 12s. (the " needs " equivalent of index number 1,283 mentioned above), the " unadjustable " amount of 15s. 9d. (*see* page 84) and the loading of 3s. and 10s.

Consequent upon the decision of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in the 1949–50 Basic Wage Inquiry, an " interim " increase of £1 2s. a week was authorized pending a special inquiry into the fixation of a new basic wage for the Northern Territory.* As a result of the latter inquiry the Court announced, on 19th November, 1951, that it would make an order based upon the consent and agreement of the parties for a basic wage in the Northern Territory of £10 10s. a week. The new rates were operative from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in November, 1951. The Darwin Special " All Items " index (*see* above) was retained as the basis for subsequent quarterly adjustments but with the index number of 1824 equated to 200s. a week. Subsequently, by decisions of the Conciliation Commissioner, a special loading of 10s. a week, operative from the same date as the new basic wage, was added to the wage rates in the Commonwealth Railways (Northern Territory) Award and that part of the Commonwealth Works and Services (Northern Territory) Award applicable north of the 20th parallel of south latitude. Similar loadings have since been included in a number of other awards.

Prior to the suspension, in September, 1953, of automatic quarterly adjustments by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, the basic wage for this area was varied in accordance with movements in the " C " Series retail price index numbers. Since then, the uniform increases made to the basic wage by the Court and the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission have applied, and the basic wages payable as from the first pay-period commencing on or after 21st May, 1958 were £14 for adult males and £10 10s. for adult females.

(*b*) *Northern Territory* (*South of the 20th parallel of South Latitude*).—There are two main groups of employees in this area of the Northern Territory, namely, employees of the Commonwealth Railways and employees of the Department of Works (formerly the Works and Services Branch of the Department of the Interior).

Prior to 1937, all employees of Commonwealth Railways, except clerks, were covered by awards of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, but since that year rates of pay for certain occupations have been prescribed by determinations of the Commonwealth Public Service Arbitrator.

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 69, p. 836.

It has been the practice of the Court and the Public Service Arbitrator to fix a common base rate for Commonwealth Railways employees (the main centre being Port Augusta) and to provide, by means of " district allowances ", additional rates to employees in isolated areas.

Prior to 3rd February, 1935, Commonwealth employees (other than Commonwealth Railways employees) engaged in the Northern Territory south of the 20th parallel of south latitude were paid the Darwin basic wage. The Full Court, in a judgment issued on 13th November, 1934,* fixed a rate of 80s. a week for Works and Services employees, which included an amount of 7s. a week to cover the cost of freight on goods purchased from the Railway Stores at Port Augusta. This rate compared with £4 10s. 9d. being paid in areas north of the 20th parallel, and with £3 5s. in Adelaide.

Provision was also made for the adjustment of this wage to be made in the manner provided by the Court for railway employees at Alice Springs, namely, on the basis of the Court's " C " Series adjustment scale in accordance with the variations of the " Special " index number for Port Augusta (inclusive of Railway Stores prices for groceries and dairy produce). Although no base index number was mentioned, it can be taken that the base index number division of the scale (809–820 = 66s.) was the starting point of the variations and was related to a total basic wage of £4, as this division contained " C " Series index number 819 (Special) for the September quarter, 1934—from which it will also be observed that only 66s. of the total wage was actually adjustable.

The 3s. a week " loading " granted by the Court in 1938 (*see* page 83) applied to employees located south of the 20th parallel of south latitude as well as to those engaged north thereof.

At a hearing on 12th and 13th March, 1947, the Full Court granted to workers in this area the amount of 7s. a week consequent upon its " Interim " Basic Wage Judgment of 13th December, 1946, as an addition to the " adjustable " part of the basic wage applicable. The questions raised as to a general review of the basic wage in the Territory as a whole were postponed pending the hearing and finalization of the basic wage inquiry held in 1949–50 at the instance of the combined unions of Australia (*see* page 63).

By an Order of 11th October, 1949, the Full Court amended the existing award to provide for the adjustment to date and thereafter (by means of the " C " Series Automatic Adjustment Scale) of the 7s. a week " excess " over the contemporaneous " needs " rate granted by the Full Court on 13th November, 1934 (*see* above). The relevant " Special " " C " Series index number for the latter period (as indicated above) was 819, equivalent to a " needs " wage of £3 6s. a week, and the above adjustment was effected by an additional column to the scale, calculated on the basis of raising the weekly " needs " equivalents by the ratio of 73s. to 66s., or by multiplying the successive weekly " needs " rates by the factor 1.10606. Thus, the base rate of the scale 1000 = 87s. became 96s.

The Order came into operation from the first Sunday in December, 1949, with the index number for the September quarter, 1949 as the starting point. The " needs " rate for this was £6 1s., which by the above formula became £6 14s., and to this were added the loadings previously payable of 7s. for " Freight Costs " and 3s. for " Prosperity " loading, making a total basic wage of £7 4s., representing an increase of 6s. a week over the basic wage calculated on the former basis.

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 33, p. 947.

Consequent upon the decision of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in the 1949–50 Basic Wage Inquiry (*see* page 63), an " interim " increase of £1 2s. a week was authorized, pending a special inquiry into the fixation of a new basic wage for the Northern Territory. As a result of the latter inquiry the Court announced, on 19th November, 1951, that it would make an order based upon the consent and agreement of the parties for a basic wage in the Northern Territory of £10 10s. a week. The new rates were operative from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in November, 1951. The Port Augusta Special " All Items " Index (*see* p. 86) was retained as the basis for subsequent quarterly adjustments but with the index number of 1757 equated to 194s. a week. Subsequently, by decisions of the Conciliation Commissioner, a special loading of 7s. a week, operative from the same date as the new basic wage, was added to the wage rates in the Commonwealth Works and Services (Northern Territory) Award applicable south of the 20th parallel of south latitude. Similar loadings have since been included in a number of other awards.

Prior to the suspension, in September, 1953, of automatic quarterly adjustments by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, the basic wage for this area was varied in accordance with movements in the " C " Series retail price index numbers. Since then, the uniform increases made to the basic wage by the Court and the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission have applied, and the basic wages payable as from the first pay-period commencing on or after 21st May, 1958 were £13 7s. for adult males and £10 for adult females.

5. **State Basic Wages.**—(i) *New South Wales.*—The first determination under the New South Wales Industrial Arbitration Act of a standard " living " wage for adult male employees was made on 16th February, 1914, when the Court of Industrial Arbitration fixed the " living " wage at £2 8s. a week for adult male employees in the metropolitan area. A Board of Trade established in 1918, with power to determine the living wage for adult male and female employees in the State, made numerous declarations during the period 1918 to 1925, but ceased to function after the Industrial Arbitration (Amendment) Act, 1926 transferred its powers, as from 15th April, 1926, to the Industrial Commission of New South Wales. The Industrial Arbitration (Amendment) Act, 1927 altered the constitution of the Industrial Commission from a single Commissioner to one consisting of three members. Act No. 14 of 1936, however, provided for the appointment of four members and Act No. 36 of 1938 for the appointment of not less than five and not more than six members. The Commission was directed, *inter alia*, " not more frequently than once in every six months to determine a standard of living and to declare . . . the living wage based upon such standard for adult male and female employees in the State." The Industrial Arbitration (Amendment) Act, 1932 directed the Commission within twenty-eight days from the end of the months of March and September to adjust the living wages so declared to accord with the increased or decreased cost of maintaining the determined standard. The first declaration of the Commission was made on 15th December, 1926, when the rate for adult males was fixed at £4 4s. a week, the same rate as that previously declared by the Board of Trade. The adult male rate was determined on the family unit of a man, wife and two children from 1914 to 1925; a man and wife only in 1927, with family allowances for dependent children; and a man, wife, and one child in 1929, with family allowances for other dependent

children. However, with the adoption in 1937 of the Commonwealth basic wage (*see* below), the identification of a specified family unit with the basic wage disappeared.

Employees in rural industries are not covered by the rates shown in the following table; a living wage for rural workers of £3 6s. a week was in force for twelve months from October, 1921 and a rate of £4 4s. operated from June, 1927 to December, 1929, when the power of industrial tribunals to fix a living wage for rural workers was withdrawn. This power was restored by an amendment to the Industrial Arbitration Act made in June, 1951.

The variations in the living wage determined by the industrial tribunals of New South Wales are shown below:—

BASIC WAGE DECLARATIONS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

(*State Jurisdiction.*)

Male.		Female.	
Date of Declaration.	Basic Wage per Week.	Date of Declaration.	Basic Wage per Week.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
16th February, 1914 ..	2 8 0	..	..
17th December, 1915 ..	2 12 6	..	..
18th August, 1916 ..	2 15 6	..	..
5th September, 1918 ..	3 0 0	17th December, 1918 ..	1 10 0
8th October, 1919 ..	3 17 0	23rd December, 1919 ..	1 19 0
8th October, 1920 ..	4 5 0	23rd December, 1920 ..	2 3 0
8th October, 1921 ..	4 2 0	22nd December, 1921 ..	2 1 0
12th May, 1922	3 18 0	9th October, 1922 ..	1 19 6
10th April, 1923	3 19 0		2 0 0
7th September, 1923 ..	4 2 0		2 1 6
24th August, 1925 ..	4 4 0		2 2 6
27th June, 1927	4 5 0		2 6 0
20th December, 1929 ..	4 2 6		2 4 6
26th August, 1932 ..	3 10 0		1 18 0
11th April, 1933	3 8 6	(*a*)	1 17 0
20th October, 1933 ..	3 6 6		1 16 0
26th April, 1934	3 7 6		1 16 6
18th April, 1935	3 8 6		1 17 0
24th April, 1936	3 9 0		(*b*)1 17 6
27th October, 1936 ..	3 10 0		1 18 0
27th April, 1937	3 11 6(*c*)		1 18 6

(*a*) From 1923 dates of declaration were the same as those for male rates. (*b*) Rate declared, £1 15s. 6d., but law amended to provide a rate for females at 54 per cent. of that for males. (*c*) From October, 1937 until November, 1955, when automatic quarterly adjustment was reintroduced in New South Wales, the rates followed those declared for that State by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.

Following on the judgment of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration of 23rd June, 1937 (*see* page 61), the Government of New South Wales decided to bring the State basic wage into line with the Commonwealth rates ruling in the State, and secured an amendment of the Industrial Arbitration Act (No. 9 of 1937) to give effect thereto. The Act came into operation from the commencement of the first pay-period in October, 1937. The general principles laid down by the Commonwealth Court were followed as closely as practicable and provision was made for the automatic adjustment of wages in conformity with variations of retail prices as shown by the Commonwealth Court's " All Items " retail price index numbers. The Commonwealth

Court's principle of treating the " Prosperity " loadings as a separate and non-adjustable part of the total basic wage was adopted. The rates for country towns were, with certain exeptions, fixed at 3s. a week below the metropolitan rate; and Crown employees, as defined, received a " Prosperity " loading of 5s. a week, as against the 6s. laid down for employees in outside industry. The basic rate for adult females was fixed at 54 per cent. of the adult male rate, to the nearest sixpence. The provisions of the main Acts for the periodic declaration of the living wage by the Industrial Commission were repealed, but the amending Act placed on the Commission the responsibility of altering all awards and agreements in conformity with the intentions of the new Act; of defining boundaries within which the various rates are to operate;* and of specifying the appropriate " Court " Series retail price index numbers to which they are to be related.

An amendment to the Industrial Arbitration Act, assented to on 23rd November, 1950, empowered the Industrial Commission to vary the terms of awards and industrial agreements affecting male rates of pay, to the extent to which the Commission thought fit, to give effect to the alteration in the basic wage for adult males made by the judgment of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration of 12th October, 1950. In the case of female rates of pay the Commission was empowered to review the terms of awards and industrial agreements and to vary such terms as in the circumstances the Commission decided proper, but no variation was to fix rates of pay for female employees lower than the Commonwealth basic wage for adult females.

To facilitate the work of the Commission, awards were divided into separate classes, and orders were issued regarding the variations to be made to those in each class. The rates for adult males were increased by the same amounts as the corresponding Commonwealth rates, with special provision to cover the cases of apprentices, casual workers and employees on piecework. In deciding the variation for female employees the Commission prescribed an increase in the total wage rate (i.e., basic wage plus marginal rate) of £1 4s. 6d. a week, subject to the statutory provision (incorporated in the amendment of 23rd November) that the minimum total rate was to be not less than the basic wage for adult females prescribed in Commonwealth awards, that is, at least 75 per cent. of the corresponding male basic wage rate.

In the judgment delivered on 9th March, 1951, giving reasons for its decision on female rates, the Commission decided that the basic wage for adult females prescribed by the Commonwealth Court in reality included a portion " due to secondary considerations," and could not be considered a " reasonable and proper basic wage for the assessment of rates of female employees under the Industrial Arbitration Act ".

In discussing the composition of the amount of £6 3s. 6d. which the Commonwealth Court, in its judgment of October, 1950, had prescribed as the basic wage for adult females in New South Wales, the Commission stated:—

> " After giving the matter fullest consideration, we think in the circumstances it is reasonable to allocate £1 of the said sum of £6 3s. 6d. to secondary considerations and to regard the amount of £1 4s. 6d. as an addition proper to be made to the pre-existing basic wage in New South Wales of £3 19s. The total, £5 3s. 6d., becomes therefore the true female basic wage for Sydney under the State Act ".†

* *New South Wales Industrial Gazette*, Vol. 52, pp. 783–4. † *New South Wales Arbitration Reports*, 1951, p. 16.

As a consequence of the overriding statutory requirement that no rate for adult females in State awards shall fall below the Commonwealth basic wage for adult females, the amount of the quarterly adjustments to the female basic wage for changes in the " Court " Series index numbers was the same in Commonwealth and State awards.

By an amendment to the Industrial Arbitration Act in June, 1951, the differentiation in the basic wage rates in different districts and for employees under Crown awards was eliminated as a general rule, making the basic wage throughout most of the State equal to that paid in Sydney, the main exception being the Broken Hill district, where a different basic rate still prevails.

The decision of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in September, 1953 to discontinue the system of automatic adjustment of the basic wage consequent on changes in the " Court " Series retail price index numbers was considered by the New South Wales Industrial Commission. On 23rd October, 1953 the Commission certified that there had been an alteration in the principles upon which the Commonwealth basic wage was computed and ordered the deletion of the automatic adjustment clauses from awards and agreements within its jurisdiction.* In October, 1955, however, the New South Wales Government passed the Industrial Arbitration (Basic Wage) Amendment Act, which required the Registrar of the Industrial Commission to restore, to all awards and agreements within its jurisdiction, quarterly adjustments of the basic wage consequent on variations in retail price index numbers. Subsequently the basic wage was adjusted as from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in November, 1955, when the rates for the State, excluding Broken Hill, became £12 13s. for adult males and £9 9s. 6d. for adult females.

The new rate of £12 13s. a week for adult males was an increase of 10s. on the rate previously payable from August, 1953 and represented the full increase in the " C " Series retail price index numbers between the June quarter, 1953 and the September quarter, 1955.

The movement in the " C " Series retail price index numbers in respect of the September quarter, 1956 was materially affected by the abnormal price movements in potatoes and onions brought about by a diminution in supplies of these items in most States of Australia.

In order to assist public understanding of the trends in retail prices within the definition of the respective indexes, the Commonwealth Statistician, in his statistical bulletin *The " C "Series Retail Price Index, September Quarter, 1956* showed two sets of index numbers, namely, " Aggregate All Groups " and " All Groups *excluding* price movements of potatoes and onions ".

The Industrial Registrar of the Industrial Commission of New South Wales, in accordance with section 61M(2) of the Industrial Arbitration Act, varied awards, etc., under the jurisdiction of that tribunal to incorporate an adjustment of 11s. a week in the basic wage as from the first pay-period in November, 1956. This basic wage adjustment was based on the " C " Series retail price index number " Aggregate All Groups " in respect of Sydney for the September quarter, 1956.

The Metal Trades Employers' Association and others appealed to the Industrial Commission of New South Wales against the decision of the Registrar and contended that the basic wage adjustment operative from the

* *New South Wales Industrial Gazette*, Vol. 111, p. 128.

first pay-period in November, 1956 should be determined by using the Commonwealth Statistician's retail price index number " All Groups *excluding* price movements of potatoes and onions " for the September quarter, 1956.

The Industrial Commission, in its judgment of 5th November, 1956, dismissed the appeal and supported the decision of the Registrar to make quarterly adjustments to the basic wage by the application of the " C " Series Index on its customary basis.

Automatic adjustments based on the " C " Series retail price index numbers for Sydney have been made for each subsequent quarter. The rates payable in Sydney as from the first pay-period in November, 1958 were £13 13s. a week for adult males and £10 4s. 6d. for adult females.

(ii) *Victoria.*—There is no provision in Victorian industrial legislation for the declaration of a State basic wage. Wages Boards constituted from representatives of employers and employees and an independent chairman, for each industry group or calling, determine the minimum rate of wage to be paid in that industry or calling. In general, these Boards have adopted a basic wage in determining the rate of wage to be paid.

By an amendment to the Factories and Shops Act in 1934, Wages Boards were given discretionary power to include in their determinations appropriate provisions of relevant Commonwealth awards. A further amendment to this Act in 1937 made it compulsory for Wages Boards to adopt such provisions of Commonwealth awards. This amending Act also gave Wages Boards power to adjust wage rates " with the variation from time to time of the cost of living as indicated by such retail price index numbers published by the Commonwealth Statistician as the Wages Board considers appropriate ". The Wages Boards thus adopted the basic wages declared by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration and followed that Court's system of adjusting the basic wage in accordance with variations in retail price index numbers.

After the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration discontinued the system of automatic adjustment of the Commonwealth basic wage (*see* page 65), a number of Wages Boards met in September, 1953 and deleted references to these adjustments. However, an amendment to the Factories and Shops Act in November, 1953 required Wages Boards to provide for the automatic adjustment of wage rates in accordance with variations in retail price index numbers.

From 1st July, 1954 the Factories and Shops Acts 1928–1953 were replaced by the Labour and Industry Act 1953, which was, in general, a consolidation of the previous Acts and retained the requirement providing for the automatic adjustment of wages in accordance with variations in retail price index numbers.

An amendment to the Labour and Industry Act proclaimed on 17th October, 1956 deleted the automatic adjustment provision and directed Wages Boards in determining wage rates to take into consideration relevant awards of, or agreements certified by, the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission. The last automatic quarterly adjustment of the basic wage, based on the variation in retail price index numbers for the June quarter, 1956, became payable from the beginning of the first pay-period in August, 1956. The rates, which were still payable in December, 1958, were £13 3s. a week for adult males and £9 17s. for adult females.

(iii) *Queensland.*—The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act of 1929 repealed the Industrial Arbitration Act of 1916 and amendments thereof, and the Basic Wage Act of 1925. The Board of Trade and Arbitration was abolished, and a Court, called the Industrial Court, was established. The Act provides that it shall be the duty of the Court to make declarations as to—(*a*) the " basic " wage, and (*b*) the maximum weekly hours to be worked in industry (called the " standard " hours). For the purposes of making any such declarations the Court shall be constituted by the Judge and two members, one of whom shall be also a member of the Queensland Prices Board.

The main provisions to be observed by the Court when determining the " basic " wage are—(*a*) the minimum wage of an adult male employee shall be not less than is sufficient to maintain a well-conducted employee of average health, strength and competence, and his wife and a family of three children in a fair and average standard of comfort, having regard to the conditions of living prevailing among employees in the calling in respect of which such minimum wage is fixed, and provided that the earnings of the children or wife of such employee shall not be taken into account; (*b*) the minimum wage of an adult female employee shall be not less than is sufficient to enable her to support herself in a fair and average standard of comfort, having regard to the nature of her duties and to the conditions of living prevailing among female employees in the calling in respect of which such minimum wage is fixed. The Court shall, in the matter of making declarations in regard to the basic wage or standard hours, take into consideration the probable economic effect of such declaration in relation to the community in general, and the probable economic effect thereof upon industry or any industry or industries concerned.

The first formal declaration of a basic wage by the Queensland Court of Industrial Arbitration was gazetted on 24th February, 1921, when the basic wage was declared at £4 5s. a week for adult males and £2 3s. for adult females. Prior to this declaration the rate of £3 17s. a week for adult males had been generally recognized by the Court in its awards as the " basic " or " living " wage. The declarations of the Industrial Court are published in the *Queensland Industrial Gazette* and the rates declared at various dates are as follows:—

BASIC WAGE DECLARATIONS IN QUEENSLAND.

(*State Jurisdiction.*)

Date of Operation.	Adult Basic Wage.						Date of Operation.	Adult Basic Wage.					
	Male.			Female.				Male.			Female.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1st March, 1921 ..	4	5	0	2	3	0	1st April, 1938 ..	4	1	0	2	3	0
1st March, 1922 ..	4	0	0	2	1	0	7th August, 1939 ..	4	4	0	2	5	0
28th September, 1925(*a*)	4	5	0	2	3	0	31st March, 1941 ..	4	9	0	2	8	0
1st August, 1930 ..	4	0	0	2	1	0	4th May, 1942(*b*) ..	4	11	0	2	9	6
1st December, 1930 ..	3	17	0	1	19	6	23rd December, 1946(*c*)	5	5	0	3	0	6
1st July, 1931 ..	3	14	0	1	19	0	7th December, 1950(*c*)	7	14	0	5	2	6
1st April, 1937 ..	3	18	0	2	1	0	1st February, 1954(*d*)	11	5	0	7	11	0

(*a*) Fixed by Basic Wage Act. (*b*) Quarterly adjustments provided by judgment of 21st April, 1942—*see* p. 93. (*c*) Consequent upon basic wage increases granted by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration. (*d*) Rates declared in 1954 Basic Wage Inquiry (*see* p. 93).

On 15th April, 1942 the Court declared the rates operative from 31st March, 1941 as adequately meeting the requirements of section 9 of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act of 1932, having regard to the level of the "C" Series retail price index for Brisbane for the December quarter, 1941, and decided to make a quarterly declaration of the basic wage on the basis of the variations in the "cost of living" as disclosed by the "C" Series index for Brisbane, commencing with the figures for the March quarter, 1942. This declaration was duly made by the Court on 21st April, 1942 at the rates of £4 11s. for adult males and £2 9s. 6d. for adult females. Following this judgment regular quarterly adjustments were made to the basic wage until January, 1953 (*see* below).

The Queensland Industrial Court granted increases of 7s. and 5s. to the basic wages for adult males and adult females respectively, payable from 23rd December, 1946, following the "interim" basic wage judgment of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration announced earlier in December, 1946 (*see* page 62).

Following the decision of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration to increase the male and female basic wages from December, 1950 (*see* page 63), the Queensland Industrial Court conducted an inquiry as to what change should be made to the State basic wage for Queensland. The Industrial Court granted an increase of 15s. a week to both adult males and adult females, thus increasing the metropolitan rates to £7 14s. a week and £5 2s. 6d. a week respectively. The increase became operative from 7th December, 1950. The basic wage payable to adult females was approximately 66 per cent. of the male rate.*

In January, 1953 the Queensland Industrial Court departed from the practice (established in 1942) of varying the basic wage in accordance with quarterly variations in the "C" Series retail price index numbers for Brisbane. If the practice had been continued, a reduction of 1s. would have been made in the basic wage for adult males from January, 1953. The Court was not satisfied, however, that the movement in the "C" Series index for Brisbane for the December quarter, 1952 was a true representation or reflex of the economic position for Queensland as a whole and so declined to make any alteration to the then existing basic wage.†

Quarterly adjustments were made for the next four quarters and the basic wage became £11 5s. for adult males from 1st February, 1954.

Commencing in March, 1954 a Basic Wage Inquiry was conducted by the Court and in its judgment of 11th June, 1954 the Court stated that there would be no change in the basic wage rates declared for February, 1954.‡

At subsequent hearings consequent on the movement in the "C" Series retail price index numbers for Brisbane in respect of the quarters ended 30th June, 30th September and 31st December, 1954 and 31st March, 1955 the Court again decided not to vary the existing basic wage rates. However, after considering the "C" Series index number for the quarter ended 30th June, 1955 and its relation to the index number for the March quarter, 1955 the Court announced that as these figures showed a continued upward trend of cost of living in 1955 the basic wage for adult males should be increased from £11 5s.

* *Queensland Industrial Gazette*, Vol. 35, p. 1253. † *Qld. I.G.*, Vol. 38, p. 137. ‡ *Qld. I.G.*, Vol. 39, p. 355.

to £11 7s. from 1st August, 1955. In this judgment the Court emphasized that it holds itself free whether or not to adjust the basic wage upwards or downwards in accordance with movement in the "C" Series retail price index number.

Subsequently, the basic wage rates were again increased by the Court, following the movement in the "C" Series retail price index number for the quarter ended 30th September, 1955 and the rates payable from 24th October, 1955 became £11 9s. for adult males and £7 14s. for adult females in the Southern Division (Eastern District).

After considering the movement in the "C" Series retail price index numbers for Brisbane, the Queensland Industrial Court in February, 1956 declined to vary the basic wage, and in April and July, 1956 granted separate increases of 4s., payable from 23rd April and 23rd July.

In announcing an increase of 4s. in the adult male basic wage for Brisbane, payable from 29th October, 1956, the Court stated that due weight had always been given to variations in the "C" Series retail price index numbers in determining the basic wage. However, the Court felt that the considerable increases in the "C" Series index numbers for the September quarter, 1956, due substantially to the abnormal increases in the prices of potatoes and onions, made the index unreal as to the movement in retail prices generally. Under the circumstances, the Court decided not to increase the basic wage by the amount which would have applied if the wage had been automatically adjusted on the basis of the "C" Series retail price index numbers including potatoes and onions.

Consequent on the issue of the "C" Series retail price index numbers for the December quarter, 1956, the Court announced that there would be no change in the basic wage, as the movement in the "C" Series index numbers for Brisbane was such that if the system of automatic adjustments had applied the basic wage would have been equal to the wage declared by the Court in the previous quarter. This fact prompted the following comment by the Court in the basic wage declaration of January, 1957: "The existing basic wage of £12 1s. for adult males truly reflects the increase in the 'C' Series index as shown between the June quarter and the end of the December quarter".*

The Queensland Industrial Court, after examining the movement in the "C" Series retail price index numbers for the March, June and September quarters of 1957, increased the basic wage in April and July but made no change in October. Further increases were made each quarter to October, 1958. The rates payable at the end of 1958 were those declared on 27th October, and were, in respect of Brisbane, £12 16s. for adult males and £8 13s. 6d. for adult females.

The rates shown above were applicable throughout the Southern Division (Eastern District—including Brisbane); allowances for adult males were added for other areas as follows:—Southern Division (Western District), 7s. 4d.; Mackay Division, 5s. 6d; Northern Division (Eastern District), 10s.; and Northern Division (Western District), 17s. 4d. The allowances for adult females were half of those for adult males.†

(iv) *South Australia.*—The Industrial Code, 1920–1955 provides that the Board of Industry shall, after public inquiry as to the increase or decrease in the average cost of living, declare the "living wage" to be paid to adult male employees and to adult female employees. The Board has power also to fix different rates to be paid in different defined areas.

* *Queensland Industrial Gazette*, Vol. 42, p. 167. † *Q.I.G.*, Vol. 6, p. 826. On 2nd February, 1959 the allowances for adult males became:—Southern Division (Western District) 10s. 6d., Mackay Division 9s.; Northern Division (Eastern District) 10s. 6d.; Northern Division (Western District) £1 12s. 6d.

It is provided that the Board of Industry shall hold an inquiry for the purpose of declaring the living wage whenever a substantial change in the cost of living or any other circumstance has, in the opinion of the Board, rendered it just and expedient to review the question of the living wage, but a new determination cannot be made by the Board until the expiration of at least six months from the date of its previous determination.

The Board of Industry consists of five members, one nominated by the Minister for Industry, two nominated by the South Australian Employers' Federation as representatives of employers, and two nominated by the United Trades and Labour Council of South Australia as representatives of employees. The member nominated by the Minister is President and presides at all meetings of the Board.

According to the Industrial Code, 1920–1955, living wage means "a sum sufficient for the normal and reasonable needs of the average employee living in the locality where the work under consideration is done or is to be done."

The family unit is not specifically defined in the Code, but the South Australian Industrial Court in 1920 decided that the "average employee" in respect of whom the living wage is to be declared is a man with a wife and three children.

The first declaration by the Board of Industry was made on 15th July, 1921, when the living wage for adult male employees in the metropolitan area was determined at £3 19s. 6d. a week. The living wage for adult female employees in the same area was declared on 11th August, 1921 at £1 15s. a week.

The living wage declarations by the Board of Industry are set out below. The rates apply to the whole State.

LIVING WAGE DECLARATIONS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

(*State Jurisdiction.*)

Male.		Female.	
Date of Operation.	Living Wage per Week.	Date of Operation.	Living Wage per Week.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
4th August, 1921	3 19 6	1st September, 1921 ..	1 15 0
27th April, 1922	3 17 6	..	..
8th November, 1923 ..	3 18 6	..	..
15th May, 1924	4 2 0	13th November, 1924 ..	1 18 0
13th August, 1925 ..	4 5 6	3rd September, 1925 ..	1 19 6
30th October, 1930 ..	3 15 0	15th January, 1931 ..	1 15 0
10th September, 1931 ..	3 3 0	24th December, 1931 ..	1 11 6
7th November, 1935 ..	3 6 0	16th January, 1936 ..	1 13 0
7th January, 1937 ..	3 9 6	29th April, 1937 ..	1 14 9
25th November, 1937 ..	3 14 0		1 16 6
5th January, 1939 ..	3 18 0		1 18 0
28th November, 1940 ..	4 4 0		2 1 0
27th November, 1941 ..	4 7 0		2 3 6
15th October, 1942 ..	4 14 0	(*a*)	2 6 2
26th September, 1946 ..	4 18 6		2 15 0
7th January, 1947(*b*) ..	5 2 0		2 17 0
8th July, 1948	5 17 0		3 6 6
19th May, 1949(*c*)	6 5 0		3 8 6

(*a*) From 1937 dates of operation were the same as those for male rates. (*b*) Commonwealth rate for metropolitan area adopted. (*c*) Since 4th December, 1950, the living wage has been varied by proclamation and rates have been the same as those declared for Adelaide by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration and the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission.

Following the declaration of an " interim " increase in its " needs " basic wage by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration on 13th December, 1946 (*see* page 62) the South Australian Government made provision through the Economic Stability Act, 1946 for the declaration by the Governor of a living wage based on the Commonwealth basic wage for Adelaide. This action was taken because the Board of Industry had made a determination on 5th September, 1946 and under the Industrial Code was not able to make a further determination for six months. On 24th December, 1946 the Governor issued a proclamation, declaring a rate of £5 2s. a week, including the 4s. " Prosperity " loading, to operate from 7th January, 1947. The Economic Stability Act also provided for similar proclamations in respect of adjustments to the living wage; however, the powers of the Board of Industry to declare a living wage which would supersede any wage declared by proclamation were retained.

On 24th May, 1947 the Board of Industry recommended, after an inquiry, that a cost of living loading of 5s. a week, over and above the metropolitan living wage, should apply to adult males located at Whyalla. This amount was subsequently adopted and continues to operate.

The Industrial Code Amendment Act, 1949 made provision for the quarterly adjustment of the living wage in accordance with the variations in the Commonwealth basic wage for Adelaide. In effect this made the State living wage and the Commonwealth basic wage equal from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in February, 1950. The prescribed adjustment to the female living wage was seven-twelfths of that made to the Commonwealth male basic wage. The Board of Industry retained power to amend the living wage but any new living wage was to be adjusted quarterly as above.

Following the decision of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in the 1949–50 Basic Wage Inquiry (*see* page 63), the South Australian Industrial Code was amended to provide for declarations of the living wage by proclamation, to prevent unjustifiable differences between the Commonwealth and State basic wages. By proclamation dated 30th November, 1950, the South Australian living wage in the metropolitan area was increased from £6 17s. to £7 18s. for adult males and from £3 14s. 11d. to £5 18s. 6d. for adult females, operative from 4th December, 1950. These new rates were identical with the December rates fixed by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for the metropolitan area of South Australia. The female rate, which had previously been approximately 54 per cent. of the male basic wage, was, by the proclamation, increased to 75 per cent. of the corresponding male rate.

The living wage for Adelaide was adjusted each quarter, as required under the State Industrial Code, in accordance with variations in the Commonwealth basic wage for Adelaide. This procedure continued until the August, 1953 adjustment, at which date the basic wages payable were £11 11s. a week for adult males and £8 13s. for adult females.

The Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration announced on 12th September, 1953 the discontinuance of quarterly adjustments, and the Commonwealth basic wages for Adelaide remained unchanged from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in August, 1953 until the first

pay-period in June, 1956, when an increase of 10s. a week was granted to adult males and an increase of 7s. 6d. to adult females. Subsequently, two increases were made in the Commonwealth basic wage—10s. and 5s. for adult males with proportionate increases for adult females, payable in May, 1957 and May, 1958, respectively, and similar variations were made to the South Australian living wage. From 26th May, 1958, the living wage in the metropolitan area of South Australia was £12 16s. for adult males and £9 12s. for adult females.

(v) *Western Australia.*—The Court of Arbitration, appointed under the provisions of the Industrial Arbitration Act, 1912–1952, determines and declares the " basic wage " in this State. The Court consists of three members appointed by the Governor, one on the recommendation of the industrial unions of employers and one on the recommendation of the industrial unions of employees, while the third member is a Judge of the Supreme Court. The last-mentioned member is the President of the Court.

The Industrial Arbitration Act, 1912–1952 provides that the Court of Arbitration may determine and declare a basic wage at any time on its own motion, and must do so when requested by a majority of industrial unions or by the Western Australian Employers' Federation, with the limitation that no new determination shall be made within twelve months of the preceding inquiry.

The term " basic wage " is defined in the Act as " a wage which the Court considers to be just and reasonable for the average worker to whom it applies ". In determining what is just and reasonable the Court must take into account not only the needs of an average worker but also the economic capacity of industry and any other matters the Court deems relevant.

The family unit is not specifically defined in the Act, but it has been the practice of the Court to take as a basis of its calculations a man, his wife and two dependent children.

The Act provides that the Court of Arbitration may make adjustments to the basic wage each quarter if the official statement supplied to the Court by the State Government Statistician relating to the cost of living shows that a variation of 1s. or more a week has occurred, compared with the preceding quarter. These adjustments apply from the dates of declaration by the Court. The Act does not define the term " cost of living ", but it has been held to mean " the basic wage as declared from time to time by the Court and as existing at the time that we [the Court] have taken into consideration the Statistician's figures." (Mr. Justice Dwyer, in the Court of Arbitration, Western Australia, in the matter of the Quarterly Adjustment of the Basic Wage, 18th August, 1931.*)

The annual and special declarations of the Court of Arbitration under the provisions of the Industrial Arbitration Act are shown for the various areas of the State in the following table. It must be noted that prior to 1950 the legislation differed from that outlined above. Particulars of the previous legislation will be found in earlier issues of the Labour Report.

* *Western Australian Industrial Gazette*, Vol. 9., p. 166.

BASIC WAGE DECLARATIONS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

(State Jurisdiction.)

Date of Operation.	Metropolitan Area.				South-West Land Division.				Goldfields Areas and Other Parts of State.			
	Male.		Female.		Male.		Female.		Male.		Female.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
1st July, 1926 ..	4 5 0		2 5 11		4 5 0		2 5 11		4 5 0		2 5 11	
,, ,, 1929 ..	4 7 0		2 7 0		4 7 0		2 7 0		*a*4 7 0		*a*2 7 0	
,, ,, 1930 ..	4 6 0		2 6 5		4 5 0		2 5 11		4 5 0		2 5 11	
,, ,, 1931 ..	3 18 0		2 2 2		3 17 0		2 1 8		3 17 0		2 1 8	
,, ,, 1932 ..	3 12 0		1 18 11		3 13 6		1 19 8		3 18 0		2 2 2	
,, ,, 1933 ..	3 8 0		1 16 9		3 9 6		1 17 6		3 17 6		2 1 10	
,, ,, 1934 ..	3 9 6		1 17 6		3 10 0		1 17 10		3 19 6		2 2 11	
,, ,, 1935 ..	3 10 6		1 18 1		3 11 2		1 18 5		4 4 4		2 5 6	
,, ,, 1936 ..	3 10 6		1 18 1		3 11 9		1 18 9		4 6 0		2 6 5	
,, ,, 1937 ..	3 13 9		1 19 10		3 14 8		2 0 4		4 7 0		2 7 0	
,, ,, 1938 ..	4 0 0		2 3 2		4 1 0		2 3 9		4 13 3		2 10 4	
,, ,, 1939 ..	*b*4 2 2		*b*2 4 4		4 3 1		2 4 10		*b*4 16 4		*b*2 12 0	
,, ,, 1940 ..	4 2 8		2 4 8		4 3 3		2 4 11		4 16 3		2 12 0	
,, ,, 1941(*c*) ..	4 8 0		2 7 6		4 9 3		2 8 2		5 3 6		2 15 11	
,, ,, 1943 ..	4 19 1		2 13 6		4 18 1		2 13 0		5 5 9		2 17 1	
,, ,, 1944 ..	4 19 11		2 13 11		4 19 8		2 13 10		5 7 1		2 17 10	
,, ,, 1945 ..	5 0 1		2 14 1		4 19 7		2 13 9		5 7 5		2 18 0	
,, ,, 1946 ..	5 1 1		2 14 7		5 0 6		2 14 3		5 9 0		2 18 10	
26th Feb., 1947(*d*) ..	5 7 1		2 17 10		5 6 6		2 17 6		5 15 4		3 2 3	
1st July, 1947 ..	5 7 10		2 18 3		5 7 3		2 17 11		5 16 0		3 2 8	
,, ,, 1948 ..	5 15 9		3 2 6		5 15 2		3 2 2		6 4 9		3 7 4	
,, ,, 1949 ..	6 7 1		3 8 8		6 6 9		3 8 5		6 15 1		3 12 11	
,, ,, 1950 ..	7 0 0		3 15 7		6 19 9		3 15 6		7 7 3		3 19 6	
18th Dec., 1950(*d*) ..	8 6 6		4 14 1		8 6 7		4 14 2		8 14 8		4 18 6	
1st ,, 1951(*e*) ..	..		6 13 8		..		6 13 0		..		6 17 1	

(*a*) Excludes Goldfields areas, where rates were the same as those operating from 1st July, 1926. (*b*) Applicable from 24th April, 1939. (*c*) Applicable from 28th April, 1941. (*d*) Special declarations following basic wage increases granted by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration. (*e*) Inquiry into female rates only.

The first declaration of the "basic wage" by the Court of Arbitration since the authority to fix one was vested in the Court by the Industrial Arbitration Act, 1925 was made on 11th June, 1926, when the rate for adult male employees was determined at £4 5s. a week, and for adult female employees at £2 5s. 11d. a week. Since that date the principal inquiries have been those of 1938, 1947, 1950 and 1951.

The declaration of 13th June, 1938 (operative from 1st July) was based on the findings of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage, 1920 (*see* page 60). For this purpose the Court reduced the amount recommended by the Commission for a five-unit family to the equivalent for a four-unit family and brought the resulting amounts up to their purchasing equivalents at the March quarter, 1938, by means of the separate "group" retail price index numbers in respect of the sections for food, clothing and miscellaneous expenditure, and for rent added an amount which was considered fair under ruling conditions.*

The increased basic wage of 26th February, 1947, was granted after an inquiry† by the Western Australian Court of Arbitration consequent upon the "Interim" Basic Wage Judgment of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in December, 1946 (*see* page 62).

* *Western Australian Industrial Gazette*, Vol. 18, p. 151. † *W.A. I.G.*, Vol. 27, p. 39.

Following the judgment of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in the 1949–50 Basic Wage Inquiry (*see* page 63), the Western Australian Court of Arbitration resumed an inquiry which had been adjourned, to ascertain what change should be made in the State basic wage rates. In its judgment of 7th December, 1950* the Court decided that the basic wage should be increased by £1 a week for adult males and by 15s. a week for adult females. The rates in the metropolitan area then became £8 6s. 6d. for adult males and £4 14s. 1d. for adult females, operative from 18th December, 1950. In relation to the female rate the unions' claim had been for a basic wage equal to 75 per cent. of the male rate instead of the existing 54 per cent. Although this claim was not granted it was intimated that the increase of 15s. should not necessarily be regarded as the Court's final word on the subject.

As the result of a subsequent inquiry† the basic wage for adult females was increased from 1st December, 1951 to 65 per cent. of the corresponding male rate. This was subject to the condition that the increase in the basic wage should be offset by the reduction in or deletion of existing margins between the basic wage and the total wage as specified by the appropriate award or determination.

On 12th September, 1953 the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration announced the discontinuance of quarterly adjustments. Following this decision the Western Australian Court of Arbitration exercised its discretionary power and, after reviewing the quarterly statements prepared by the Government Statistician for each quarter from the September quarter, 1953 to the March quarter, 1955, declined to make, where applicable, any adjustment to the basic wage. However, after reviewing the statement submitted by the Government Statistician for the quarter ended 30th June, 1955, the Court decided to increase the basic wage for Perth by 5s. 11d. a week for adult males and to make corresponding increases for the other areas in the State. Subsequently, where applicable, adjustments were made to the basic wage each quarter.

As from 27th October, 1958, the metropolitan basic wage for adult males was £13 13s. 5d. a week and for adult females £8 17s. 9d. a week.

(vi) *Tasmania.*—A State basic wage is not declared in Tasmania. Wages Boards constituted for a number of industries, from representatives of employers and employees and an independent chairman (who is common to all Wages Boards), determine the minimum rate of wage payable in each industry. Until February, 1956 these Boards generally adopted the basic wages of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in determining the rate of wage to be paid.

The Wages Boards Act 1920–1951 gives Wages Boards power to adjust wage rates in accordance with variations in the cost of living as indicated by retail price index numbers published by the Commonwealth Statistician and, until November, 1953, Wages Board determinations provided for automatic adjustments of the basic wage.

* *Western Australian Industrial Gazette*, Vol. 30, p. 336. † *W.A.I.G.*, Vol. 36, p. 497.

Following the decision of the Commonwealth Court in September, 1953, to discontinue the system of automatic quarterly adjustments of the basic wage, the Chairman of Wages Boards stated: "I consider that the basic wage should remain stationary for a reasonable trial period . . . . . but if a serious attempt is not made to stabilize prices and in some cases to reduce them, applications can be made for meetings of Wages Boards to reconsider the position." Before Wages Boards met to consider this matter, the wage rates for all determinations were automatically adjusted upwards from the beginning of the first pay-period in November. However, after meeting, all Wages Boards decided as from 9th December, 1953 to delete the automatic adjustment clause from determinations and cancel the adjustments made in November.

During 1955, representations were made for the restoration of automatic quarterly adjustments and, on 1st November, 1955, at the conclusion of a compulsory conference of employer and employee representatives, the Chairman of Wages Boards announced that, in his opinion, automatic quarterly adjustments should be restored in Wages Boards determinations. He suggested, however, that the adjustments should be delayed until February, 1956, so that a serious attempt could be made during November, December and January to reduce prices. In accordance with this decision, Wages Boards met and re-inserted in determinations the provision for automatic quarterly adjustments. The wage rate payable under Wages Boards determinations from the first pay-period in February, 1956 became that which would have been payable if quarterly adjustments had continued in the period under review.

The decision of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in the 1956 Basic Wage Inquiry delivered in May, 1956 (*see* page 67), caused representations to be made for a review of the problem of automatic quarterly adjustments. Following requests by the Employers' Federation that Wages Boards accept the Commonwealth basic wage and delete automatic adjustment provisions from Wages Boards determinations, a compulsory conference of employer and employee representatives was held on 22nd and 25th June, 1956. On 3rd July, 1956 the Chairman issued a statement that he favoured the suspension of automatic adjustments in order to achieve some measure of stability. He added, however, that if prices continued to rise it would be necessary to review the position.

The majority of Wages Boards suspended quarterly basic wage adjustments after the August, 1956 adjustment, and to December, 1958, wage rates remained unchanged. The basic wage for Hobart generally incorporated in determinations at that date was £13 12s. for adult males and £10 4s. for adult females.

(vii) *Rates Prescribed.*—The " basic wage " rates of State industrial tribunals operative in November, 1957 and 1958 are summarized in the following table:—

STATE BASIC WAGES: WEEKLY RATES.

State.	November, 1957.			November, 1958.		
	Date of Operation. (*a*)	Males.	Females.	Date of Operation. (*a*)	Males.	Females.
		s. d.	*s. d.*		*s. d.*	*s. d.*
New South Wales—						
Metropolitan and Country, excluding Broken Hill	Nov., 1957	270 0	202 6	Nov., 1958	273 0	204 6
Broken Hill	Nov., 1957	269 0	202 0	Nov., 1958	271 0	203 0
Victoria(*b*)	Aug., 1956	263 0	197 0	Aug., 1956	263 0	197 0
Queensland—						
Southern Division (Eastern District), including Brisbane ..	29.7.57	241 0	162 6	27.10.58	256 0	173 6
Southern Division (Western District)	29.7.57	248 4	166 2	27.10.58	263 4	177 2
Mackay Division	29.7.57	246 6	165 3	27.10.58	261 6	176 3
Northern Division (Eastern District)	29.7.57	251 0	167 6	27.10.58	266 0	178 6
Northern Division (Western District)	29.7.57	258 4	171 2	27.10.58	273 4	182 2
South Australia(*c*)	20.5.57	251 0	188 0	26.5.58	256 0	192 0
Western Australia—						
Metropolitan Area	28.10.57	272 9	177 3	27.10.58	273 5	177 9
South-West Land Division ..	28.10.57	271 5	176 5	27.10.58	273 4	177 8
Goldfields and other areas ..	28.10.57	266 7	173 3	27.10.58	271 6	176 6
Tasmania(*b*)	Aug., 1956	272 0	204 0	Aug., 1956	272 0	204 0

(*a*) Where dates are not quoted wage rates operate from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in the month shown. (*b*) No basic wage declared. Rates shown are those adopted by most Wages Boards. (*c*) The living wage declared for the metropolitan area is also adopted for country areas, except at Whyalla, where a loading of 5s. a week is generally payable.

§ 5. Wage Margins.

On 5th November, 1954 the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration delivered a judgment* which in effect became a general determination of the basis upon which all relevant wage and salary margins should be assessed. This became known as the Metal Trades Case, 1954.

General principles of marginal rate fixation had previously been enunciated by the Court in the Engineers' Case of 1924, the Merchant Service Guild Case of 1942 and the Printing Trades Case of 1947, and the Court adopted these in so far as they were applicable to current circumstances.

" Margins " were defined as—

> " Minimum amounts awarded above the basic wage to particular classifications of employees for the features attaching to their work which justify payments above the basic wage, whether those features are the skill or experience required for the performance of that work, its particularly laborious nature, or the disabilities attached to its performance."

A brief account of the Metal Trades Case is as follows:—

The Amalgamated Engineering Union, the Electrical Trades Union and other employee organizations parties to the Metal Trades award, 1952, filed applications during 1953 for increased margins for all workers covered by this award.

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 80, p. 3.

The applications came on for hearing before J. M. Galvin *C.C.*, who decided that they raised matters of such importance that, in the public interest, they should be dealt with by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration. On 16th September and 6th October, 1953 the Conciliation Commissioner, pursuant to section 14A of the Conciliation and Arbitration Act, referred these applications to the Court.

The actual claims of the trade unions were that the marginal rate of 52s. a week payable to a fitter in the metal trades should be increased to 80s. a week (86s. for certain electrical trades) with proportionate increases for other award occupations. The margins then current, with a few exceptions, had been in existence since 1947. The employees' claims were in the nature of a test case to determine the attitude of the Court to applications for increased margins.

The Metal Trades Employers' Association and other respondents to the Metal Trades award had counter-claimed that existing margins for skilled tradesmen should remain unaltered, while those paid to partly skilled or unskilled workers should be reduced.

The Court decided to take the Commissioner's two references together and the matter came on for hearing before the Full Arbitration Court (Kelly *C. J.*, Kirby, Dunphy and Morgan *JJ.*) in Melbourne on 13th October, 1953.

In a judgment delivered on 25th February, 1954 the Court held that a prima facie case had been made for a re-assessment of margins but that the economic situation at that time, particularly in regard to the level of costs, did not permit of such a comprehensive review. The Court decided that to avoid the creation of new disputes, to save expense and to obviate procedural difficulties, it would not reject the claims but adjourn them until 9th November, 1954.

On 25th and 26th August, 1954, summonses were filed by the employees' organizations for orders that proceedings in this case be brought forward and the hearing was resumed on 5th October, 1954.

In a judgment delivered on 5th November, 1954 the Court made an order re-assessing the marginal structure in the Metal Trades award by, in general, raising the current amount of the margin to two and a half times the amount of the margin that had been current in 1937. However, in cases in which the result of that calculation produced an amount less than the existing margin the existing margin was to remain unaltered. In effect, this decision increased the margin of a fitter from 52s. a week to 75s. a week, increased similarly margins of other skilled occupations, and made no increase in margins of what may generally be described as the unskilled or only slightly skilled occupations under the Metal Trades award.

At the end of its judgment the Court stated that, while its decision in this case related immediately to one particular industry, it was expected to afford general guidance to all authorities operating under the Conciliation and Arbitration Act or under other legislation which provided for tribunals having power to make references, or being subject to appeal, to the Court, where the wage or salary may properly be regarded as containing a margin. The Court added observations for the guidance of these and of other tribunals "which may regard decisions of this Court as of persuasive authority."

In view of the widespread effects of this judgment some extensive extracts from it are given below:—

> "Margins are minimum amounts awarded above the basic wage to particular classifications of employees for the features attaching to their work which justify payments above the basic wage, whether those features

are the skill or experience required for the performance of that work, its particularly laborious nature, or the disabilities attached to its performance. Furthermore, the assessment of each margin should be made in relation to each other margin, so that the margin awarded to one employee should bear, as far as possible, its proper monetary comparison with that of every other employee awarded a margin, having in mind the various matters which in each case should be weighed in assessing the margin. These observations may appear to be somewhat trite, but we state them because we think that they are often forgotten or overlooked."*

"The first task of the Court in the problem of determining what should be the present assessment or re-assessment of margins in this industry has been to decide what can be regarded—generally speaking—as a sound basis on which to build. Our conclusion on this question is that the proper point for a general approach to this question is the variation order made by Beeby *J.* on the 23rd February, 1937 . . ."†

"Since 1937 there have been four major decisions which have increased the margins in this industry; certainly three of these have resulted in distortions of greater or lesser degree of the scheme of margins assessed by Beeby *J.* in 1937. The distortions to which we refer have resulted in each case in the improvement of the relative marginal position of the unskilled or relatively unskilled employee in comparison with that of the skilled. In two of these cases the major adjustments of margins which were made were the result in part of the agreement of some employers."†

"The cumulative effect of the distortions resulting from the addition of the loadings in 1941, and of the two variation orders made by Mr. Commissioner Mooney in 1947, can conveniently be seen in the following table which sets out certain selected classifications, some of which have been regarded as "key" classifications in the industry:—

Title of classification.	Margin under 1937 orders.	Margin including "loading" under 1941 order.	Margin including "loading" under first Mooney order of 1947.	Margin including "loading" under second Mooney order of 1947.
Duster	50s.	56s.	65s.	82s. 6d.
Fitter	30s.	36s.	45s.	52s.
Annealer	25s.	29s.	36s.	42s. 6d.
Machinist 2nd class ..	20s.	24s.	31s.	37s.
Machinist 3rd class ..	14s.	17s.	22s.	28s.
Process worker ..	8s.	11s.	16s.	22s.
Racksman	4s.	7s.	12s.	18s.
All other labourers ..	Nil	3s.	3s.	3s.

An examination of this table shows in a somewhat startling way the deterioration of the relative position of the skilled employee's margin in relation to the margins of the semi-skilled or unskilled."‡

"In our earlier reasons we said:—

> 'The Court has in the past rejected the principle that marginal rates should be adjusted, either automatically or from time to time, in accordance with variations in the purchasing power of money. It again rejects this principle.'

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 80, p. 24. † Ibid., p. 25. ‡ Ibid., p. 29.

" Mr. Eggleston [Counsel for the unions] in discussing that observation during the adjourned hearing remarked that the claim was not now made that the margins should be automatically adjusted on change in the value of money. But the claim now made is that at this ' time ' such an adjustment should be made, provided that in the view of the Court the economic state of the country can sustain the burden of the adjustment. On the question of the adjustment of margins according to variation in the value of money we do not propose to add anything to what we said earlier, and we again reject the claim that wage justice requires that, even *prima facie*, a margin properly assessed earlier should be adjusted when it comes up for re-assessment by relation to a change in the purchasing power of money.

" In our earlier reasons we said:—

> ' The court adopts the general principles of marginal fixation enunciated in the *Engineers Case* of 1924, the *Merchant Service Guild Case* of 1942, and the *Printing Trades Case* of 1947.'

" In the *Printing Trades Case* of 1947, Kelly *J.* (as he then was), after reviewing earlier decisions of this Court relating to the assessment of margins, including the *Engineers Case* of 1924 and the *Merchant Service Guild Case* of 1942, said:—

> ' I conclude, therefore, that the following rules should guide me in the review of wage rates sought by the present application:—
>
> 1. That it must be put upon the applicant Union to satisfy the Court that material change in circumstances, occurring since the making of the award, has rendered the rates then prescribed as minima no longer just as such.
> 2. That the standard of justice must be the true value to-day of the work for which the rates are to be made payable as minima.
> 3. That the true value is not to be ascertained by reference to high wages being paid on account of accidental and temporary conditions connected with a shortage of labour.
> 4. That the true value is not to be ascertained by reference to variation in the purchasing power of money since the award was made.
> 5. That the assessment of the true value must have regard to comparisons of minimum rates payable for work in comparable industries or of comparable occupations.'

" Paragraph 4 of that quotation should be read with a sentence later in the same reasons in which Kelly *J.*, in giving his reasons for assessing the margin of the hand-compositor at a new and higher rate, remarked:—

> ' Whilst not allowing myself to inform my decision by reference to any proportionate fall in the purchasing power of money since either the 1942 or previous awards were made, I have not forgotten that nominal values of all things, including the nominal value of work, must tend to increase with an increase in the nominal prices of essential commodities.'

"We think that it may be convenient to discuss first the position of the fitter, whom we may take as exemplifying the position of the really skilled employee under this award. (We do not wish it to be thought, however, that in discussing the position of the fitter first we have in any sense looked upon him in isolation from the other classifications in the award. The problem must be considered as a whole and it is desirable for us to mention before we come to the margin of the fitter that we are clearly of the opinion that looked at from any point of view—whether from the value of money or otherwise—no case has been made out for any increase in the margins prescribed for what may generally be described as the unskilled or only slightly skilled employees.) We have said that the fitter's margin in 1937 was assessed at 30s.; it has now reached 52s. Our task is to decide what is 'the true value today of the work' which the fitter does. The fact, of which there is some evidence, that a large body of other employees not in this industry have been awarded increases in margins since 1947 may have seemed to supply some *prima facie* ground for the increase of the fitter's margin, awarded in 1947 by the Full Court, which has not since been increased; but the evidence on that score is of such a nature that it would provide but an uncertain foundation upon which to decide that the fitter's margin should be increased by comparison; still less does it point to any particular amount as an appropriate increase. We may mention as one difficulty that we do not know the extent to which the increases in margins in other industries since 1947 were themselves reflections of the increase in the fitter's margin in that year. Indeed, as to the fitter's margin it is generally difficult to re-assess it by relation to the margins of other skilled employees, since the fitter's margin has itself been so often accepted as a key margin for the skilled employee. We mentioned in our earlier reasons that evidence had been tendered as to 'over-award' payments in fact being made in this industry. No further evidence was tendered on this subject and we do not feel able to add anything further to our earlier observations upon it. But our view is that the real mischief which our assessment of the margins in this case is required to cure is that which we believe to exist in the relative position of the margin for the skilled employee in relation to the margin for the unskilled, a state of affairs which we believe is not confined to this industry. In attempting to rectify the relative position of the skilled employee, we cannot overlook the fact that any increase in his margin is likely to have some reflection in the marginal rates of other skilled employees not in this industry. It is particularly because of this fact that in making any increase for the skilled employee we have anxiously considered the state of the economy. Our examination of the economy and our conclusions thereon will be found set out later in these reasons. In attempting to find the true value of the margin for the fitter today, we have not forgotten that the nominal value of his skill must tend to increase with the increase in the nominal prices of essential commodities, a feature which was present in the mind of Kelly *J.* in the *Printing Trades Case*, as we have indicated. We have concluded that, viewed in the light of present monetary values and in the whole setting of marginal rates, the fitter's margin should now be assessed at 75s. That amount is two and a half times the fitter's 1937 margin. It has not been calculated by adjusting the 30s. margin to any change in the value of money since 1937. But for the benefit of those interested in such comparisons we may mention that the Commonwealth Statistician's "C" series index number for the six capital cities for the December quarter 1936, that

available at the time when Beeby *J.* made his variation order on the 23rd February, 1937, was 862; the comparable number for the September quarter 1954 was 2321; the last-mentioned number is a little more than two and two-thirds times the first. It may be seen therefore, that an award of 75s. per week as the margin for the fitter gives him now only a little below the same purchasing value as his 1937 margin gave if measured by the "C" series index. On this aspect of the matter we may quote the following passage from our earlier reasons in these matters:—

> 'It is apposite to mention here the many benefits which all or many employees covered by the awards of this Court have received at the instance of the unions since the termination of hostilities in the second world war. These have included the increase in the real value of the basic wage, the extension of paid annual leave, the reduction of the standard ordinary working week from forty-four hours to forty, the increase in so-called "penalty" rates for work performed at the week-end and, speaking generally, the large increases in margins for work which is unskilled or which requires little skill or experience. All of these things not inconsiderably supplemented by over-award payments gained in most cases by the intervention of the unions have, in our opinion, substantially increased wage costs and have thereby contributed to the fall in the value of money on which the claim of the unions for the increase in margins very largely rests in these proceedings.'

"We then proceeded to state that the 'really skilled employee has shared most of these improvements.' In the light of all these circumstances it cannot be regarded as unjust that the really skilled employee's new margin should happen to fall somewhat short in purchasing-power of the margin which was assessed for him in 1937, which we have regarded as a proper 'datum point'."*

"If the margins of the eight classifications set out in the table which earlier appears in these reasons are each multiplied by two and a half, the result is as follows (we include for purposes of comparison the present margin):—

——	1937 margin.	Present margin.	1937 margin multiplied by two and a half.
Duster	50s.	82s. 6d.	125s.
Fitter	30s.	52s.	75s.
Annealer	25s.	42s. 6d.	62s. 6d.
Machinist 2nd class ..	20s.	37s.	50s.
Machinist 3rd class ..	14s.	28s.	35s.
Process worker	8s.	22s.	20s.
Racksman	4s.	18s.	10s.
All other labourers ..	Nil	3s. during first three months in metal trades industry, thereafter 9s.	Nil

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 80, pp. 31–33.

"It will be seen that as regards the three lowest paid classifications set out in the above table, the multiplication of the 1937 margin by two and a half would produce a result which if awarded would result in a reduction of the present margins. This would seem at first sight logical for complete consistency, but after consideration we have come to the conclusion that we should not reduce any margins simply because they do not accord with the scheme of re-assessment of the higher margins by relation to those prescribed in 1937. It is difficult, perhaps in some cases impossible, to ignore past history in dispensing industrial justice. We do not think that we should ignore, or that we should now attempt wholly to correct, the tendency which has been widespread during and since the recent war to award relatively higher margins to employees with less claims to marginal payments than to those in the upper marginal brackets. Moreover, our assessment of the new margin for the fitter as 75s. per week is, as we have indicated, to a large extent affected by the result of that and other trends.

"As a general rule, therefore, our new assessment of the margins in this industry is to increase the 1937 margins by two and a half. But in cases in which the result of that calculation produces an amount less than the existing margin, the existing margin remains unaltered.

"To this general approach there are, however, some exceptions."*

The Court instanced new classifications inserted since 1937 and margins re-assessed since 1937.

The judgment then proceeded to examine the statistical evidence adduced in relation to the "indicators" of the condition of the economy and concluded:—

"We can do no more than to reach our conclusions in accordance with the general picture as we see it, after pondering to the best of our ability, in the absence of any conclusive evidence being available of the bounds of economic capacity, those aspects of economic capacity of which we have some evidence.

"In fine, we are satisfied that, subject to economic considerations, the adjustments in favour of the more skilled employees' minimum rates, now to be made, ought to be made in accordance with principles of wage-justice. Then, having examined the material at hand, we have come to the conclusion that the economy can support what we have proposed.

"The variations to be made are, of course, of the minimum rates prescribed by the award. Where wages are in fact being paid at higher amounts than the minimum rates which we now prescribe, the order will be understood to be not applicable, that is to say, not effective to increase such over-award payments.

"In the statement published in February the Court endeavoured to make it clear that its judgment was 'not to be read as being determinative, except within the bounds of necessary inference, of matters in the lists of the Court relating to claims and counter-claims concerning the minimum rates of payment which should be fixed for other classes or types of employment than those to which the present references relate.' 'Insofar, however, as it deals with the claim for a general adjustment of marginal rates in accordance alone with variation of the purchasing power of money,' so proceeded the statement, 'what is said here must be understood as being necessarily applicable to all similar claims or submissions.'

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 80, pp. 33–34.

Nevertheless, it is proper, we think, again to emphasise that the decision we are now making deals only with the particular industry with which the references made by the Conciliation Commissioner are concerned. At the same time, we desire to state that what the Court now decides is expected by it to afford general guidance to all authorities operating under the *Conciliation and Arbitration Act*, or under other legislation which provides for a wage or salary-fixing tribunal having power to make references, or being subject to an appeal, to this Court, where the wage or salary may properly be regarded as containing a margin. It is desirable that we should attempt to say a little for the guidance of those authorities and perhaps also of other industrial tribunals which may regard decisions of this Court as of persuasive authority. The matter is of particular importance since we are aware not only that our decision in this case establishes a new and higher standard of margins for skilled employees covered by the Metal Trades award, but also that successive awards in this industry have in the past been regarded as guides for margins in a number of other awards. It is unwise for us to attempt to be too specific, in particular since, as we said in our reasons delivered in these references in February last, ' every claim for an increase in award rates of a marginal nature should be considered in the light of the history of the margin concerned.'

" It must be emphasised that our main purpose in prescribing new and higher margins for the skilled employees in this award has been to restore to some extent their marginal status in relation to the unskilled, and it is obvious that to give the same proportionate increase of existing margins to the unskilled as to the skilled would, generally speaking, destroy that purpose. In cases of awards in which the general marginal pattern has in the past followed that of the Metal Trades award, it would seem that no particular difficulty should be found; in those cases it may be regarded as proper to prescribe a new marginal structure which will accord, *mutatis mutandis*, with the Court's new marginal structure in the Metal Trades award. But in other cases, speaking very generally, the matter may be approached in the following manner. Margins prescribed in 1937, or shortly thereafter, since in some cases the reflection of the increase in 1937 in the Metal Trades award margins may have occurred later, could be multiplied by two and a half; if the result of the calculation is more than the present margin there would seem *prima facie* ground for its increase to that result; if not, *prima facie* there would seem to be no ground. But we emphasise that there may be exceptions to this general approach, particularly in cases of new classifications, or in cases where some change in the nature of the work done, or of the disabilities suffered by a particular class of employees has required a new assessment of margins since 1937 or thereabouts. The margins for such employees must be fitted into their appropriate places in the new scale."*

§ 6. Child Endowment in Australia.

The Commonwealth Government, in June, 1927, called a conference at Melbourne of the Premiers of the several States to consider the question of child endowment from a national standpoint. The Prime Minister submitted

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 80, pp. 53–54.

various estimates of the cost of endowing dependent children under fourteen years of age in Australia at 5s. a week. After discussion, it was decided to refer the matter to a Royal Commission to be appointed by the Commonwealth Government.

The Commission submitted its report on 15th December, 1928. It was not unanimous in its findings, and the opinions and recommendations of the members were embodied in two separate reports, which dealt exhaustively with the constitutional aspects, existing systems, industrial legislation, the basic wage, standard of living, regulation of wages, working conditions and cognate matters.

The findings and recommendations in the *majority* and *minority* reports were given in Labour Report No. 19.

At the conference of Commonwealth and State Ministers held at Canberra in May, 1929, the Prime Minister stated that the Commonwealth Government was not prepared to adopt a scheme financed entirely from the proceeds of taxation, as had been recommended in the minority report. The Commonwealth Government agreed with the majority of the Commission that child endowment could not be separated from the control of the basic wage—a power which the Commonwealth did not possess and which the States were not prepared to relinquish. The Government, therefore, did not propose to establish any system of child endowment.

It was generally agreed that any scheme which would increase the charges upon industry would be unwise at that particular time. The matter of child endowment was accordingly left to be dealt with as the State Governments should think proper.

Early in 1941, the Commonwealth Government announced its intention to introduce a scheme of child endowment throughout Australia. The necessary legislation* was passed and the scheme came into operation from 1st July, 1941. Appropriate steps were then taken for the termination of existing schemes operating in New South Wales and the Commonwealth Public Service. The New South Wales system of child endowment was in operation from July, 1927 to July, 1941, and the Commonwealth Public Service system operated from November, 1920 until July, 1941. Details of these schemes appeared in earlier issues of the Labour Report (*see* No. 36, page 103). From 1st July, 1941, when the Commonwealth Child Endowment scheme was introduced, the rate of endowment for children under 16 years of age was 5s. a week for each child in excess of one in a family and for each child in an approved institution, the rate being increased to 7s. 6d. a week from 26th June, 1945, and to 10s. a week from 9th November, 1948. Endowment in respect of the first child under 16 years in a family was first provided for by an amendment of the legislation in June, 1950. At present the main features of the scheme are as follows:—

Any person who is a resident of Australia and has the custody, care and control of one or more children under the age of 16 years, or an approved institution of which children are inmates, shall be qualified to receive an endowment in respect of each child.

From 20th June, 1950, the rates of endowment have been—

(*a*) where the endowee has one child only, 5s. a week;

* Act No. 8, 1941 (Child Endowment Act) as amended by No. 5, 1942 and Nos. 10 and 41, 1945 (now Part VI. of the Social Services Act 1947-1958).

(*b*) where the endowee has two or more children—in respect of the elder or eldest child, 5s. a week and in respect of each other child, 10s. a week;

(*c*) where the endowee is an approved institution, 10s. a week for each child inmate.

There are provisions to cover cases of families divided by reason of divorce, separation, death of a parent or other circumstances. In such cases payment may be made to the father, mother or other person.

A child born during the mother's temporary absence from Australia is deemed to have been born here.

There is a twelve months residential requirement for claimants and children who were not born in Australia, but this is waived if the claimant and the child are likely to remain permanently in Australia.

There is no means test.

Endowment will be paid for the children of members of the naval, military or air forces of the United Kingdom who are serving with the Australian Forces from the time of arrival of the children in Australia.

A summary of the operations of this scheme during each of the years 1953–54 to 1957–58 is given below:—

CHILD ENDOWMENT: AUSTRALIA.

Year.	Endowed Families at 30th June.		Approved Institutions at 30th June.		Total Number of Endowed Children at 30th June.
	Number of Claims in Force.	Number of Endowed Children.	Number of Institutions.	Number of Endowed Children.	
1953–54.. ..	1,280,439	2,689,577	387	27,397	2,716,974
1954–55.. ..	1,304,227	2,764,167	392	24,394	2,788,561
1955–56.. ..	1,339,807	2,854,524	392	21,140	2,875,664
1956–57.. ..	1,378,169	2,957,046	397	21,145	2,978,191
1957–58.. ..	1,415,378	3,051,699	415	22,246	3,073,945

Year.	Amount Paid to Endowees and Approved Institutions.	Annual Liability for Endowment at 30th June.	Average Annual Rate of Endowment per Endowed Family at 30th June.	Average Number of Endowed Children per Endowed Family at 30th June.	Number of Endowed Children in each 10,000 of Population.
	£	£	£		
1953–54.. ..	50,760,799	53,995,617	41.613	2.101	3,023
1954–55.. ..	52,529,902	55,547,635	42.104	2.119	3,031
1955–56.. ..	60,380,686	57,349,773	42.394	2.131	3,050
1956–57.. ..	57,036,962	59,516,769	42.786	2.146	3,088
1957–58.. ..	58,733,561	61,522,656	43.059	2.156	3,122

CHAPTER IV.—EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

§ 1. Employment.

1. **General.**—Data on which this section is based are divided into two main categories: (*a*) Censuses, 1933, 1947 and 1954 and quasi-Censuses; and (*b*) monthly returns for Pay-roll Tax purposes, supplemented by regular returns of Government employment and other direct collections.

The first quasi-Census was the National Register, July, 1939. It covered males aged 18–64 years and, supplemented by other data, provided estimates for July, 1939. The Civilian Register, June, 1943, and the Occupation Survey, June, 1945, covered civilians aged 14 years and over and were supplemented by records of the defence forces. Pay-roll Tax returns first became available in July, 1941.

2. **Total Occupied Persons.**—(i) *General.*—The total number of occupied persons in Australia is obtained from the results of each population Census, supplemented by data in respect of Australian defence personnel serving outside Australia, who, in accordance with usual Census procedure, are not recorded in the Census. The figures shown below in sub-paras. (ii) and (iii) are derived from the 1933, 1947 and 1954 Censuses, after making the adjustments referred to in the notes to the table below and in the accompanying text (sub-para. (ii)).

(ii) *Australia.*—The figures in the table below are divided into three categories:—(*a*) defence forces; (*b*) all persons fully occupied as employers, or as self-employed in businesses or on farms; and (*c*) wage and salary earners employed, or occupied as casual, part-time, intermittent or seasonal workers. " Unemployed " persons (*see* explanation on page 119) are excluded.

All unpaid " helpers " in non-rural industry have been included with wage and salary earners. Male unpaid " helpers " in rural industry have been included with employers and self-employed persons, as it is considered that the majority of these are sons or other close relatives of farmers working in *de facto* partnership, or as learners with the farm owner. Unpaid female " helpers " on farms are fairly numerous. Generally they are occupied mainly in home duties, and, with all other women occupied in unpaid home duties, have been excluded from the category of occupied persons.

TOTAL OCCUPIED PERSONS: AUSTRALIA, JUNE, 1933, 1947 AND 1954.
('000.)

30th June.	Defence Forces. (*a*)	Employers and Self-employed.			Wage and Salary Earners.			Total Occupied Civilians.	Total Occupied Persons, including Defence Forces. (*a*)
		Rural Industry.	Other Industries.	Total.	Rural Industry.	Other Industries.	Total.		
MALES.									
1933 ..	5.8	293.5	249.0	542.5	200.1	989.8	1189.9	1732.4	1738.2
1947 ..	53.2	278.9	286.8	565.7	148.2	1659.4	1807.6	2373.3	2426.5
1954 ..	(*b*)50.9	279.2	316.9	596.1	154.2	2020.3	2174.5	2770.6	2821.5
FEMALES.									
1933 ..	..	15.2	56.3	71.5	3.2	(*c*) 446.6	449.8	521.3	521.3
1947 ..	0.8	13.8	55.8	69.6	8.1	*d*659.9	668.0	737.6	738.4
1954 ..	2.0	19.6	62.1	81.7	7.6	735.4	743.0	824.7	826.7
PERSONS.									
1933 ..	5.8	308.7	305.3	614.0	203.3	1436.4	1639.7	2253.7	2259.5
1947 ..	54.0	292.7	342.6	635.3	156.3	2319.3	2475.6	3110.9	3164.9
1954 ..	52.9	298.8	379.0	677.8	161.8	2755.7	2917.5	3595.3	3648.2

(*a*) Includes those serving outside Australia. (*b*) Excludes approximately 10,300 males undergoing full-time National Service training at the time of the Census. With the exception of full-time students these persons have been included in the figures of occupied civilians. (*c*) Includes females in private domestic service:—106,700 in 1933, 40,200 in 1947 and 29,600 in 1954. (*d*) Includes an estimate of 40,400 part-time workers not classified as wage earners at the Census.

The numbers of defence personnel serving outside Australia who were included in the defence forces shown in the table above were 13,843 males in 1947 and 5,841 males in 1954.

During the fourteen years from 1933 to 1947 the number of persons actually occupied at work increased by 905,400, or by an average of 64,700 a year, whilst during the seven years from 1947 to 1954 the increase amounted to 483,300 or 69,000 a year. Practically all of the increase in the number of occupied persons during the years 1947 to 1954 was due to growth of the total available work force. During the previous intercensal period (1933 to 1947) the increase in the number of persons occupied comprised approximately 400,000 persons who had been unemployed in 1933 and approximately 500,000 growth in the total available work force.

The total numbers of employers, self-employed and wage earners of both sexes classified at the Census as engaged in agricultural, pastoral and dairying industries (excluding female " helpers "—*see* above) declined from 512,000 in 1933 to 460,600 in 1954. There was very little movement in the figures between 1947 and 1954.

The proportion of male employers and self-employed in industries other than rural declined from 20.1 per cent. of occupied civilian males in these industries in 1933 to 14.7 per cent. in 1947, and to 13.6 per cent. in 1954. The corresponding proportion of female employers and self-employed declined from 11.2 per cent. in 1933 to 7.8 per cent. in 1947, and remained constant at 7.8 per cent. in 1954. The increase in the numbers of male employers and self-employed in non-rural industries during the years 1947 to 1954 averaged only 4,300 a year. The average increase during the same period in the number of male wage earners in these industries was 51,600 a year.

(iii) *States.*—The following table shows the total numbers of occupied males and females in each State and Territory at the Censuses of 1947 and 1954, classified as defence forces, employers and self-employed persons, and wage and salary earners.

TOTAL OCCUPIED PERSONS: STATES AND TERRITORIES, JUNE, 1947 AND 1954.

('000.)

State or Territory.	Defence Forces. (*a*)		Employers and Self-employed.		Wage and Salary Earners.		Total Occupied Persons, including Defence Forces. (*a*)	
	June, 1947.	June, 1954.	June, 1947.	June, 1954.	June, 1947.	June, 1954.	June, 1947.	June, 1954.
				MALES.				
New South Wales ..	23.1	(*b*) 21.4	197.5	207.3	728.1	833.7	948.7	1062.4
Victoria	15.9	15.0	158.1	167.1	490.5	596.9	664.5	779.0
Queensland	5.9	6.6	96.9	99.7	252.0	307.4	354.8	413.7
South Australia ..	2.6	2.3	51.8	55.5	153.3	194.1	207.7	251.9
Western Australia ..	3.4	3.1	39.8	44.3	116.6	156.1	159.8	203.5
Tasmania	0.8	0.8	20.1	20.2	57.8	71.9	78.7	92.9
Northern Territory ..	0.8	0.7	1.0	1.1	4.0	5.8	5.8	7.6
Aust. Capital Territory	0.7	1.0	0.5	0.9	5.3	8.6	6.5	10.5
Australia ..	*53.2*	*50.9*	*565.7*	*596.1*	*1807.6*	*2174.5*	*2426.5*	*2821.5*

(*a*) Includes those serving outside Australia. (*b*) Excludes approximately 10,300 males undergoing full-time National Service training at the time of the Census. *See also* footnotes to previous table.

TOTAL OCCUPIED PERSONS: STATES AND TERRITORIES, JUNE, 1947 AND 1954—*continued.*

('000.)

State or Territory.	Defence Forces. (*a*)		Employers and Self-employed.		Wage and Salary Earners.		Total Occupied Persons, including Defence Forces. (*a*)	
	June, 1947.	June, 1954.	June, 1947.	June, 1954.	June, 1947.	June, 1954.	June, 1947.	June, 1954.
FEMALES.								
New South Wales ..	0.3	0.5	25.4	29.0	268.6	290.6	294.3	320.1
Victoria	0.4	0.8	22.5	25.3	202.0	227.0	224.9	253.1
Queensland	0.1	0.2	10.2	12.5	83.9	93.1	94.2	105.8
South Australia ..	..	0.1	5.2	7.0	52.9	59.9	58.1	67.0
Western Australia ..	..	0.1	4.3	5.6	39.2	46.6	43.5	52.3
Tasmania	..	0.1	1.8	2.1	18.9	21.7	20.7	23.9
Northern Territory ..	..	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.7	1.3	0.8	1.5
Aust. Capital Territory	..	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.8	2.8	1.9	3.0
Australia ..	*0.8*	*2.0*	*69.6*	*81.7*	*668.0*	*743.0*	*738.4*	*826.7*
PERSONS.								
New South Wales ..	23.4	(*b*) 21.9	222.9	236.3	996.7	1,124.3	1,243.0	1,382.5
Victoria	16.3	15.8	180.6	192.4	692.5	823.9	889.4	1,032.1
Queensland	6.0	6.8	107.1	112.2	335.9	400.5	449.0	519.5
South Australia ..	2.6	2.4	57.0	62.5	206.2	254.0	265.8	318.9
Western Australia ..	3.4	3.2	44.1	49.9	155.8	202.7	203.3	255.8
Tasmania	0.8	0.9	21.9	22.3	76.7	93.6	99.4	116.8
Northern Territory ..	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.2	4.7	7.1	6.6	9.1
Aust. Capital Territory	0.7	1.1	0.6	1.0	7.1	11.4	8.4	13.5
Australia ..	**54.0**	**52.9**	**635.3**	**677.8**	**2,475.6**	**2,917.5**	**3,164.9**	**3,648.2**

(*a*) Includes those serving outside Australia. (*b*) Excludes approximately 10,300 males undergoing full-time National Service training at the time of the Census. *See also* footnotes to previous table.

The occupied population of Australia (including defence forces but excluding unemployed, pensioners, retired, persons of independent means and dependants) increased from 1947 to 1954 by 15.3 per cent. The percentage increase in each State and Territory was as follows:—New South Wales, 11.2; Victoria, 16.0; Queensland, 15.7; South Australia, 20.0; Western Australia, 25.8; Tasmania, 17.5; Northern Territory, 37.9; and Australian Capital Territory, 60.7.

3. Wage and Salary Earners in Civilian Employment.—(i) *General.*—Monthly estimates of the number of wage and salary earners in civilian employment (excluding employees in rural industry and female private domestics) are made by varying benchmark data obtained from a Census or quasi-Census on the basis of the movement in employment shown by Pay-roll Tax returns, annual Censuses of Factories, returns of Government employment and other direct collections. Monthly estimates are available from July, 1941, when Pay-roll Tax commenced. The figures at July, 1939 are based on the National Register.

Employment recorded on Pay-roll Tax returns at present covers approximately 77 per cent. of the estimated number of wage and salary earners in civilian employment (excluding employees in rural industry and female private domestics). Pay-roll Tax returns are lodged by all employers paying more than £200 a week in wages, other than certain Commonwealth Government Bodies, religious and benevolent institutions, public hospitals and other similar organizations specifically exempted under the Pay-roll Tax Assessment Act 1941–1957.

(ii) *Australia: Industrial Groups.*—The table shows total male and female wage and salary earners in civilian employment (excluding employees in rural industry, female private domestics, persons on the paid strength of the defence forces and National Service trainees in camp) subdivided to show the extent of employment provided by Government bodies and by private employers respectively. Principal industrial groups shown in the table include both private employees and Government employees, if any. (Current figures are published in the *Monthly Bulletin of Employment Statistics.*) The manufacturing employment figures published in this table comprise (i) the series showing actual monthly employment in factories as recorded at successive annual Censuses of Factories to June, 1958 (*see* pp. 117–118), with interim estimates for subsequent months, and (ii) estimates of the number of employees in industrial establishments outside the scope of the definition of a factory (*see* p. 117) and persons employed by factory proprietors but engaged in selling and distribution.

The series referred to in (i) above replaces the Pay-roll Tax series of employment estimates included in the " Manufacturing " figures shown in issues of this Report prior to No. 45, 1957. Adoption of this new series entails adopting also new series for " Private Employment " and " Total Employment " for males, females and persons.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT: INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, AUSTRALIA.

(Excluding Rural Wage Earners, Female Private Domestics, Personnel in Defence Forces and National Service Trainees in Camp.)

('000.)

Industrial Group.	July, 1939.	June, 1954.	June, 1955.	June, 1956.	June, 1957.	June, 1958.	December, 1958.
			MALES.				
Mining and Quarrying	52.2	58.7	58.3	57.3	56.3	51.6	50.6
Manufacturing, etc.(*a*)	456.1	798.7	826.2	842.1	845.1	857.2	853.8
Building and Construction	149.7	205.7	211.8	214.6	207.3	202.3	199.2
Transport(*b*)	158.2	238.7	244.7	245.9	245.1	242.1	240.1
Communication	27.7	61.4	64.0	64.5	67.9	69.7	69.6
Property and Finance	47.1	57.9	59.6	61.7	64.0	66.0	66.4
Retail Trade	212.6	128.4	129.2	129.9	129.4	132.5	138.9
Wholesale and other Commerce		140.4	147.5	151.0	150.0	150.3	153.7
Public Authority Activity, n.e.i.	31.8	97.5	99.2	100.6	101.7	104.0	104.6
Health	17.8	25.9	26.0	26.8	27.1	27.5	27.8
Education	22.1	36.7	38.7	40.8	43.4	45.3	45.2
Personal Service	37.0	52.1	54.3	54.4	54.7	54.9	56.6
Other(*c*)	80.8	88.2	90.0	92.1	93.0	94.1	94.1
Total	*1,293.1*	*1,990.3*	*2,049.5*	*2,081.7*	*2,085.0*	*2,097.5*	*2,100.6*
Government(*d*)	349.8	581.4	599.1	604.9	609.5	621.8	622.8
Private	943.3	1,408.9	1,450.4	1,476.8	1,474.5	1,475.7	1,477.8
Total	*1,293.1*	*1,990.3*	*2,049.5*	*2,081.7*	*2,085.0*	*2,097.5*	*2,100.6*

For footnotes *see* next page.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT: INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, AUSTRALIA—*continued.*

(Excluding Rural Wage Earners, Female Private Domestics, Personnel in Defence Forces and National Service Trainees in Camp.)

('000.)

Industrial Group.	July, 1939.	June, 1954.	June, 1955.	June, 1956.	June, 1957.	June, 1958.	December, 1958.
FEMALES.							
Mining and Quarrying	0.3	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1
Manufacturing, etc.(*a*)	169.0	239.0	245.7	249.9	250.4	251.7	249.4
Building and Construction	1.2	4.7	4.9	5.1	5.3	5.5	5.5
Transport(*b*)	5.2	18.7	19.7	20.7	20.4	20.3	20.4
Communication	7.4	17.8	18.7	19.4	19.7	19.6	19.7
Property and Finance	13.5	34.7	38.1	41.8	43.5	45.4	45.5
Retail Trade	101.4	115.3	121.6	122.9	121.3	125.4	133.3
Wholesale and other Commerce		42.3	45.0	46.3	46.8	46.9	46.8
Public Authority Activity, n.e.i.	10.0	27.3	28.6	29.1	29.2	29.8	30.2
Health	34.0	70.8	73.5	77.6	79.4	82.1	83.6
Education	32.0	44.9	47.9	50.5	53.8	56.1	55.9
Personal Service	43.0	67.0	69.6	70.2	69.5	68.7	70.0
Other(*c*)	20.1	36.2	37.3	38.4	39.3	39.5	39.7
Total	*437.1*	*719.7*	*751.7*	*773.1*	*779.8*	*792.1*	*801.1*
Government(*d*)	55.2	114.5	122.8	129.8	132.8	136.6	137.1
Private	381.9	605.2	628.9	643.3	647.0	655.5	664.0
Total	*437.1*	*719.7*	*751.7*	*773.1*	*779.8*	*792.1*	*801.1*
PERSONS.							
Mining and Quarrying	52.5	59.7	59.4	58.5	57.5	52.7	51.7
Manufacturing, etc.(*a*)	625.1	1,037.7	1,071.9	1,092.7	1,095.5	1,108.9	1,103.2
Building and Construction	150.9	210.4	216.7	219.7	212.6	207.8	204.7
Transport(*b*)	163.4	257.4	264.4	266.6	265.5	262.4	260.5
Communication	35.1	79.2	82.7	83.9	87.6	89.3	89.3
Property and Finance	60.6	92.6	97.7	103.5	107.5	111.4	111.9
Retail Trade	314.0	243.7	250.8	252.8	250.7	257.9	272.2
Wholesale and other Commerce		182.7	192.5	197.3	196.8	197.2	200.5
Public Authority Activity, n.e.i.	41.8	124.8	127.8	129.7	130.9	133.8	134.8
Health	51.8	96.7	99.5	104.4	106.5	109.6	111.4
Education	54.1	81.6	86.6	91.3	97.2	101.4	101.1
Personal Service	80.0	119.1	123.9	124.6	124.2	123.6	126.6
Other(*c*)	100.9	124.4	127.3	130.5	132.3	133.6	133.8
Total	**1,730.2**	**2,710.0**	**2,801.2**	**2,854.8**	**2,864.8**	**2,889.6**	**2,901.7**
Government(*d*)	405.0	695.9	721.9	734.7	742.3	758.4	759.9
Private	1,325.2	2,014.1	2,079.3	2,120.1	2,122.5	2,131.2	2,141.8
Total	**1,730.2**	**2,710.0**	**2,801.2**	**2,854.8**	**2,864.8**	**2,889.6**	**2,901.7**

(*a*) Includes employees engaged in selling and distribution, who are outside the scope of the factory employment figures as defined and published on pp. 117–118. (*b*) Includes road transport; shipping and stevedoring; rail and air transport. (*c*) Includes forestry, fishing and trapping; law and order; religion and social welfare; other professional; amusement, sport and recreation. (*d*) Includes employees of Commonwealth, State, Semi-Government and Local Government bodies. For further details *see* p. 119.

A graph showing wage and salary earners in civilian employment in the main industrial groups appears on page 131.

(iii) *States.*—Statistics of total employment of wage and salary earners (excluding rural and female private domestic employment and defence forces) since 1933 are shown for each State and Territory in the following table.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT: STATES.

(*Excluding Rural Wage Earners, Female Private Domestics, Personnel in Defence Forces and National Service Trainees in Camp.*)

('000.)

Year and Month.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
MALES.									
1933—June ..	379.8	288.1	139.3	80.3	70.0	28.9	1.0	2.4	989.8
1939—July ..	529.9	357.5	172.8	106.7	82.9	37.4	2.1	3.8	1,293.1
1941—November	556.8	405.1	168.0	121.9	83.2	39.4	3.9	3.1	1,381.4
1951—June ..	768.6	536.1	264.4	170.8	127.9	60.8	4.6	8.1	1,941.3
1952—June ..	762.9	539.0	263.0	172.3	129.6	61.8	4.4	8.3	1,941.3
1953—June ..	745.2	536.8	259.8	171.3	133.5	62.3	4.6	8.5	1,922.0
1954—June ..	771.3	556.8	269.6	176.8	139.1	63.6	4.9	8.2	1,990.3
1955—June ..	794.2	576.2	278.2	180.8	141.5	65.1	4.8	8.7	2,049.5
1956—June ..	808.5	583.2	282 4	187.9	140.5	65.7	5.0	8.5	2,081.7
1957—June ..	810.5	586.0	282.6	186.4	138.4	66.0	5.8	9.3	2,085.0
1958—June ..	814.5	592.9	282.8	186.0	138.6	67.0	5.6	10.1	2,097.5
1958—December	816.4	596.4	278.3	187.0	139.3	67.0	5.8	10.4	2,100.6
FEMALES.									
1933—June ..	125.5	118.0	40.3	25.9	20.5	9.1	0.1	0.5	339.9
1939—July ..	168.0	142.9	53.2	34.0	26.2	11.6	0.2	1.0	437.1
1941—November	229.3	192.8	62.6	45.6	32.6	15.2	0.4	1.3	579.8
1951—June ..	295.2	223.0	88.4	56.3	42.1	20.4	0.8	2.5	728.7
1952—June ..	273.2	210.3	85.5	54.2	41.1	19.8	0.8	2.5	687.4
1953—June ..	269.8	209.2	85.8	52.5	41.4	20.2	0.9	2.5	682.3
1954—June ..	284.3	222.1	88.6	56.6	43.4	21.2	0.9	2.6	719.7
1955—June ..	297.4	232.4	92.1	59.8	44.3	21.8	1.0	2.9	751.7
1956—June ..	305.9	238.5	93.7	62.5	45.1	23.2	1.1	3.1	773.1
1957—June ..	309.3	240.4	95.8	62.4	44.5	22.9	1.2	3.3	779.8
1958—June ..	314.5	244.5	95.9	63.4	45.6	23.5	1.3	3.4	792.1
1958—December	319.4	246.6	96.3	64.2	46.8	23.1	1.4	3.3	801.1
PERSONS.									
1933—June ..	505.3	406.1	179.6	106.2	90.5	38.0	1.1	2.9	1,329.7
1939—July ..	697.9	500.4	226.0	140.7	109.1	49.0	2.3	4.8	1,730.2
1941—November	786.1	597.9	230.6	167.5	115.8	54.6	4.3	4.4	1,961.2
1951—June ..	1,063.8	759.1	352.8	227.1	170.0	81.2	5.4	10.6	2,670.0
1952—June ..	1,036.1	749.3	348.5	226.5	170.7	81.6	5.2	10.8	2,628.7
1953—June ..	1,015.0	746.0	345.6	223.8	174.9	82.5	5.5	11.0	2,604.3
1954—June ..	1,055.6	778.9	358.2	233.4	182.5	84.8	5.8	10.8	2,710.0
1955—June ..	1,091.6	808.6	370.3	240.6	185.8	86.9	5.8	11.6	2,801.2
1956—June ..	1,114 4	821.7	376 1	250.4	185.6	88.9	6.1	11.6	2,854.8
1957—June ..	1,119.8	826.4	378.4	248.8	182 9	88.9	7.0	12.6	2,864.8
1958—June ..	1,129.0	837.4	378.7	249.4	184.2	90.5	6.9	13.5	2,889.6
1958—December	1,135.8	843.0	374.6	251.2	186.1	90.1	7.2	13.7	2,901.7

The number of male wage and salary earners in Australia in civilian employment, excluding rural, was higher in November, 1941 than at the outbreak of war. The male employment level then commenced to decline and continued to do so until the December quarter, 1943, after which there was a general, though slight, upward trend until the end of the war. Demobilization of the defence forces resulted in a rapid increase in male employment in all States in 1945–46 and 1946–47. Male employment continued to increase during each of the next four years, reaching a peak of 1,958,500 in March, 1952. During 1952–53, however, the numbers employed fell continuously to 1,894,000 in

January, 1953. Apart from minor fluctuations, male employment rose fairly steadily from February, 1953, reaching 2,087,800 in March, 1957. During the remainder of 1957 there was a slight decline, but since then the numbers have again risen, to a peak of 2,121,400, in May, 1959.

After the outbreak of war, female civilian wage and salary earners (excluding rural workers and domestics in private homes) increased rapidly in all States, the peak level during the war (646,000) being reached in December, 1943. After the end of the war, female employment declined in all States, particularly in Victoria and South Australia, but it increased again from January, 1946 and in August, 1948 had passed the war-time peak. The initial post-war peak of 733,300 recorded in November, 1951 was followed by a steady decline to 672,100 in January, 1953. Since then female employment has risen fairly steadily, to a peak of 810,700, in May, 1959.

(iv) *Factories.*—The following table shows the number of employees in the main factory classes in June of each of the years 1954 to 1958 compared with 1939. The figures refer to the reported employment in factories as defined for the purposes of the annual production census, results of which are published in the annual bulletin, *Secondary Industries.* In this connexion a factory is defined as an industrial establishment in which four or more persons are employed, or in which power other than manual is used. The employees covered are those engaged in manufacturing activities and exclude working proprietors and those engaged in selling and distribution, etc.

EMPLOYMENT IN FACTORIES ACCORDING TO MAIN CLASSES: AUSTRALIA.

('000.)

Class of Factory.	Number of Employees in June—					
	1939.	1954.	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.(*a*)
	MALES.					
Treatment of Non-metalliferous Mine and Quarry Products	9.8	17.9	19.2	19.2	18.6	19.1
Bricks, Pottery, Glass	14.3	20.3	20.7	20.1	19.5	20.5
Chemicals, Oils, Paints, etc.	14.6	30.1	32.7	34.7	35.2	36.6
Metals, Machines, Vehicles, etc.	161.6	357.9	374.8	387.3	388.3	396.1
Jewellery, Watches, etc.	2.8	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.0
Textiles (including knitted goods)	18.3	29.7	27.9	28.8	29.4	28.4
Skins and Leather	8.0	10.6	10.4	9.9	9.8	9.3
Clothing (including shoes)	19.1	28.5	27.9	27.3	27.3	26.6
Food, Drink and Tobacco	57.6	88.3	89.2	87.8	88.4	87.6
Sawmilling and Woodworking	27.5	52.2	54.3	53.8	51.5	52.0
Cabinet Making, Furniture, etc.	11.2	15.9	16.3	15.6	16.0	16.7
Paper, Printing, etc.	26.7	41.2	43.0	45.1	46.1	48.2
Rubber	4.9	12.0	13.1	13.7	14.3	14.6
Musical Instruments and Miscellaneous Manufactures	5.4	13.5	13.6	14.3	15.1	14.9
Heat, Light and Power	9.2	15.7	16.2	16.3	16.6	16.5
Total	*391.0*	*738.0*	*763.5*	*778.0*	*780.2*	*791.1*

(*a*) Subject to revision.

EMPLOYMENT IN FACTORIES ACCORDING TO MAIN CLASSES: AUSTRALIA—*continued.*

('000.)

Class of Factory.	Number of Employees in June—					
	1939.	1954.	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958(*a*)
FEMALES.						
Treatment of Non-metalliferous Mine and Quarry Products	0.2	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0
Bricks, Pottery, Glass	0.8	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9
Chemicals, Oils, Paints, etc.	5.7	9.3	10.1	10.5	10.0	10.4
Metals, Machines, Vehicles, etc.	9.4	38.3	43.4	45.1	47.8	52.3
Jewellery, Watches, etc.	0.5	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.1
Textiles (including knitted goods)	27.2	39.5	38.3	39.1	39.5	37.4
Skins and Leather	2.5	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.0
Clothing (including shoes)	61.3	77.9	76.5	75.8	73.6	72.1
Food, Drink and Tobacco	20.9	28.4	29.3	29.5	29.3	29.1
Sawmilling and Woodworking	0.9	2.6	2.8	3.0	3.1	3.0
Cabinet Making, Furniture, etc.	2.7	3.2	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.8
Paper, Printing, etc.	11.6	15.3	16.2	17.0	16.9	17.2
Rubber	2.3	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6
Musical Instruments and Miscellaneous Manufactures	2.4	7.1	7.6	7.9	8.2	7.9
Heat, Light and Power	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total	*148.6*	*232.0*	*238.5*	*242.5*	*242.9*	*244.0*
PERSONS.						
Treatment of Non-metalliferous Mine and Quarry Products	10.0	18.6	20.0	20.1	19.5	20.1
Bricks, Pottery, Glass	15.1	22.2	22.7	22.1	21.4	22.4
Chemicals, Oils, Paints, etc.	20.3	39.4	42.8	45.2	45.2	47.0
Metals, Machines, Vehicles, etc.	171.0	396.2	418.2	432.4	436.1	448.4
Jewellery, Watches, etc.	3.3	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.1
Textiles (including knitted goods)	45.5	69.2	66.2	67.9	68.9	65.8
Skins and Leather	10.5	13.8	13.6	13.1	12.9	12.3
Clothing (including shoes)	80.4	106.4	104.4	103.1	100.9	98.7
Food, Drink and Tobacco	78.5	116.7	118.5	117.3	117.7	116.7
Sawmilling and Woodworking	28.4	54.8	57.1	56.8	54.6	55.0
Cabinet Making, Furniture, etc.	13.9	19.1	19.9	19.2	19.7	20.5
Paper, Printing, etc.	38.3	56.5	59.2	62.1	63.0	65.4
Rubber	7.2	15.3	16.6	17.2	17.8	18.2
Musical Instruments and Miscellaneous Manufactures	7.8	20.6	21.2	22.2	23.3	22.8
Heat, Light and Power	9.4	15.8	16.3	16.5	16.8	16.7
Total	**539.6**	**970.0**	**1002.0**	**1020.5**	**1023.1**	**1035.1**

(*a*) Subject to revision.

4. **Government Employees.**—(i) *States and Territories.*—The number of civilian employees of Commonwealth, State and Semi-Government and Local Government bodies in June and December, 1958 is shown in the following table. These include all employees of Government bodies on services such as railways, tramways, banks, post office, air transport, education, broadcasting, television, police, public works, factories and munitions establishments, migrant hostels, etc., as well as administrative employees, within Australia.

CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF GOVERNMENT BODIES(a): JUNE AND DECEMBER, 1958.

State or Territory.	Commonwealth.			State and Semi-Government.			Local Government.			Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.
JUNE, 1958.												
N.S.W.	58,372	15,207	73,579	134,812	28,016	162,828	26,888	2,985	29,873	220,072	46,208	266,280
Vic. ..	51,686	15,040	66,726	100,890	26,181	127,071	13,581	1,885	15,466	166,157	43,106	209,263
Qld. ..	18,405	4,866	23,271	55,423	8,315	63,738	17,869	956	18,825	91,697	14,137	105,834
S.A. ..	16,825	3,695	20,520	39,016	10,473	49,489	3,252	323	3,575	59,093	14,491	73,584
W.A.	9,340	2,233	11,573	39,451	7,173	46,624	3,607	356	3,963	52,398	9,762	62,160
Tas. ..	4,788	1,323	6,111	14,832	4,168	19,000	2,302	178	2,480	21,922	5,669	27,591
N.T. ..	2,767	714	3,481	..	..	..	104	5	109	2,871	719	3,590
A.C.T.	7,581	2,576	10,157	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,581	2,576	10,157
Aust.	169,764	45,654	215,418	384,424	84,326	468,750	67,603	6,688	74,291	621,791	136,668	758,459
DECEMBER, 1958.												
N.S.W.	58,156	15,259	73,415	135,032	28,222	163,254	27,299	3,076	30,375	220,487	46,557	267,044
Vic. ..	52,016	15,170	67,186	100,820	26,316	127,136	13,646	2,001	15,647	166,482	43,487	209,969
Qld. ..	18,124	4,846	22,970	54,804	7,681	62,485	18,322	966	19,288	91,250	13,493	104,743
S.A. ..	16,874	3,638	20,512	39,302	10,708	50,010	3,263	326	3,589	59,439	14,672	74,111
W.A.	9,397	2,266	11,663	39,659	7,300	46,959	3,617	376	3,993	52,673	9,942	62,615
Tas. ..	4,905	1,333	6,238	14,645	4,144	18,789	2,311	195	2,506	21,861	5,672	27,533
NT. ..	2,944	761	3,705	..	..	..	93	5	98	3,037	766	3,803
A.C.T.	7,609	2,511	10,120	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,609	2,511	10,120
Aust.	170,025	45,784	215,809	384,262	84,371	468,633	68,551	6,945	75,496	622,838	137,100	759,938

(a) *See* explanation on page 118.

(ii) *Australia.*—The following table shows a comparison of the number of civilian employees of Commonwealth, State and Semi-Government and Local Government bodies in July, 1939, in June in each of the years 1954 to 1958 and in December, 1958.

CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF GOVERNMENT BODIES (a): AUSTRALIA.

Date.	Commonwealth.			State and Semi-Government.			Local Government.			Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.
June—												
1939(b)	56,099	11,764	67,863	235,066	40,586	275,652	58,637	2,887	61,524	349,802	55,237	405,039
1954 ..	156,604	41,579	198,183	363,095	67,466	430,561	61,643	5,493	67,136	581,342	114,538	695,880
1955 ..	160,840	44,291	205,131	373,238	72,728	445,966	65,026	5,771	70,797	599,104	122,790	721,894
1956 ..	162,314	46,114	208,428	377,077	77,587	454,664	65,558	6,138	71,696	604,949	129,839	734,788
1957 ..	165,566	45,612	211,178	378,055	80,825	458,880	65,854	6,376	72,230	609,475	132,813	742,288
1958 ..	169,764	45,654	215,418	384,424	84,326	468,750	67,603	6,688	74,291	621,791	136,668	758,459
Dec.—												
1958 ..	170,025	45,784	215,809	384,262	84,371	468,633	68,551	6,945	75,496	622,838	137,100	759,938

(a) *See* explanation on p. 118. (b) July.

§ 2. Unemployment.

The total number of persons " unemployed " has been recorded only at the dates of the various Censuses. Prior to the 1947 Census, persons who were " unemployed " were requested to furnish particulars of the cause and duration of unemployment, but from 1947 onwards the enquiry was broadened to include all persons (usually engaged in industry, business, trade, profession or service) who were out of a job and " not at work " at the time of the Census for whatever reason, including any not normally associated with unemployment. This change

in the form of the questionnaire probably resulted in some variation in response. The following table sets out the number of persons recorded within these categories at the Censuses of 1933 to 1954. The percentage of " unemployed " at each date to all wage and salary earners, comprising those estimated to be in employment and those unemployed, is also shown.

UNEMPLOYMENT (ALL CAUSES): AUSTRALIA, CENSUSES, 1933, 1947 AND 1954.

Date.	Wage and Salary Earners Unemployed. ('000.)			Proportion of Wage and Salary Earners Unemployed. (Per cent.)		
	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.
June, 1933(*a*) ..	405.4	75.8	481.2	25.4	14.5	22.7
June, 1947(*b*) ..	66.6	16.9	83.5	3.5	2.5	3.2
June, 1954(*b*) ..	41.0	14.0	55.0	1.8	1.9	1.8

(*a*) As recorded at the Census. In addition, there were considerable numbers of youths and young women of working age who had never been employed and were " not at work " at the time of the Census. (*b*) Persons in the work force who were " not at work " (*see* explanation above) at the time of the Census.

The following table shows the number of males and females " unemployed " or " not at work " classified according to cause of unemployment at the Censuses of 1933, 1947 and 1954. The change in the form of questionnaire after 1933 should be borne in mind.

CAUSES OF UNEMPLOYMENT: AUSTRALIA, CENSUSES, 1933, 1947 AND 1954.

Year.	Unable to Secure Employment.	Temporarily Laid Off.	Illness.	Accident.	Industrial Dispute.	Other and Not Stated.	Total.
			MALES.				
1933 ..	374,569	(*a*)	18,083	4,702	1,595	6,483	405,432
1947(*b*) ..	17,314	12,458	14,639	2,985	475	(*c*)18,743	66,614
1954(*b*) ..	9,089	4,056	10,894	2,571	316	(*c*)14,088	41,014
			FEMALES.				
1933 ..	62,630	(*a*)	9,193	434	95	3,465	75,817
1947(*b*) ..	2,254	2,449	4,396	280	24	(*c*) 7,512	16,915
1954(*b*) ..	3,369	1,267	3,939	291	15	(*c*) 5,119	14,000
			PERSONS.				
1933 ..	437,199	(*a*)	27,276	5,136	1,690	9,948	481,249
1947(*b*) ..	19,568	14,907	19,035	3,265	499	(*c*)26,255	83,529
1954(*b*) ..	12,458	5,323	14,833	2,862	331	(*c*)19,207	55,014

(*a*) Not available. (*b*) *See* note (*b*) to previous table. (*c*) The majority of these persons were resting between jobs or changing jobs.

Details of the number of persons receiving unemployment benefit and of the payments made may be found on page 124.

§ 3. Commonwealth Employment Service.

Statutory warrant for the Commonwealth Employment Service (C.E.S.) is to be found in the Re-establishment and Employment Act 1945 (sections 47 and 48). In brief, the main functions of the Service are to assist people seeking employment to obtain positions best suited to their training, experience, abilities and qualifications; and to assist employers seeking labour to obtain employees best suited to the demands of the employers' particular class of work.

The organization and functions of the C.E.S. accord with the Employment Service Convention of 1948 and Recommendation 1948 of the International Labour Organization, which were respectively ratified and adopted by Australia in December, 1949.

The C.E.S. functions within the Employment Division of the Department of Labour and National Service, on a four-tiered decentralized basis. The Central Office is in Melbourne, and there is a Regional Office in the capital city of each State, with 120 District Employment Offices in suburban and the larger provincial centres and 334 agents in the smaller country centres. The District Employment Offices are distributed as follows:—New South Wales, 46; Victoria, 31; Queensland, 20; South Australia, 8; Western Australia, 9; Tasmania, 4; Northern Territory, 1; Australian Capital Territory, 1.

The C.E.S. provides specialized facilities for young people, persons with physical and mental handicaps, ex-service personnel, migrants, rural workers and persons with professional and technical qualifications.

Vocational guidance is provided free of charge in each State, other than New South Wales, by a staff of qualified psychologists. In New South Wales a similar service is provided by officers of the New South Wales Department of Labour and Industry. Vocational guidance is available to any person, but is provided particularly for young people, ex-servicemen and the physically handicapped.

The C.E.S. has responsibilities in the administration of the unemployment and sickness benefits provided under the Social Services Act 1947–1958, and of the re-employment allowances provided under the Re-establishment and Employment Act 1945–1958 for certain classes of discharged members of the forces. All applicants for benefits or allowances must register at a District Employment Office or agency of the C.E.S., which is responsible for certifying whether or not suitable employment can be offered to them.

The C.E.S. is responsible for placing in employment migrant workers sponsored by the Commonwealth under the Commonwealth Nomination and similar schemes. This includes arranging for them to move to their initial employment and for their admission, if necessary, to Commonwealth migrant hostels. Assistance to obtain employment is provided to other migrants as required. From the inception of the various free and assisted schemes, including the Displaced Persons Scheme, to the end of December, 1958, about 180,000 British and European migrant workers had been placed in employment by the C.E.S.

Since 1951, the C.E.S. has been responsible for recruiting Australian experts for oversea service under the Colombo Plan and the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. The principal spheres in which experts have been supplied are agriculture, education, engineering, geology, health and economic and scientific research and development.

In association with its placement activities, the C.E.S. carries out regular surveys of the labour market and supplies detailed information to interested Commonwealth and State Government Departments and instrumentalities and to the public. It also advises employers, employees and other interested persons on labour availability and employment opportunities in various occupations and areas and on other matters concerning employment.

The C.E.S. is responsible for the medical examination and interview of young men for training in the Army under the National Service Act 1951–1957, which is administered by the Department of Labour and National Service. The Department also administers the provisions of the Act relating to the protection of the rights of National Service trainees in relation to their civil employment.

The Service completed its twelfth year of operation in May, 1958. During the year ended 30th June, 1958 there were 696,338 registrations of applicants for employment, of whom 426,839 were referred to employers and 302,172 placed in employment, and 404,916 new vacancies were notified. Vacancies unfilled at the end of June, 1958 numbered 15,958.

Prior to the setting up of the Commonwealth Employment Service, State Labour Exchange Organizations existed in several States, but they have been superseded. Details of the organization and administration of these exchanges in the several States were given in Labour Report No. 30, page 133.

§ 4. Commonwealth Unemployment and Sickness Benefits.

1. **General.**—The Unemployment and Sickness Benefits Act 1944, which is now incorporated in the Social Services Act 1947–1958, was a very important addition to Commonwealth social legislation.

Since 1st July, 1945, men over 16 and under 65 years of age, and women over 16 and under 60 years of age and qualified in other respects, have been eligible to apply for an unemployment benefit or a sickness benefit. There is a twelve months' residential requirement but this is waived if the claimant is likely to remain permanently in Australia. A person in receipt of an age, invalid or widow's pension, or a service pension (as distinct from a war pension) under the Repatriation Act, or a tuberculosis allowance is ineligible to receive a benefit.

To qualify for an unemployment benefit, a person must establish that he is unemployed and that his unemployment is not due to his being a direct participant in a strike, that he is capable and willing to undertake suitable work, and that he has taken reasonable steps to obtain such work. Registration with the local Commonwealth District Employment Officer is necessary.

To qualify for a sickness benefit, a person must establish that he is temporarily incapacitated for work by reason of sickness or accident and that he has thereby suffered a loss of salary, wages or other income.

A married woman is not eligible to receive a sickness benefit if it is reasonably possible for her husband to maintain her. Where her husband is able to maintain her only partially, a benefit may be paid at such rate as is considered reasonable in the circumstances. In exceptional cases, a married woman may qualify for an unemployment benefit in her own right.

The maximum weekly rates of benefit payable and permissible income from 17th October, 1957 are as follows:—

Age and Marital Status of Claimant.	Maximum Weekly Benefit Payable.	Permissible Weekly Income.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Person over 21 years of age	3 5 0	2 0 0
Married person under 21 years of age		
Unmarried person 18–20 years of age	2 7 6	1 0 0
Unmarried person under 18 years of age	1 15 0	1 0 0

An additional benefit of £2 7s. 6d. a week may be paid for a dependent spouse and 10s. for one dependent child under 16 years of age. If no allowance is paid for a dependent spouse, a similar benefit may be paid for a claimant's housekeeper, provided there are one or more children under 16 years of age in the home and the woman is substantially dependent on the claimant but is not employed by him.

The weekly rate of benefit is reduced by the amount by which a beneficiary's income from sources other than his pension exceeds the amount shown in the final column of the relevant line in the above table. For unemployment benefit purposes, the incomes of the claimant and his spouse are taken into account, unless they are permanently separated. For sickness benefit purposes, the income of the claimant only is taken into account, while up to £2 a week is disregarded of any payment received from an approved friendly society or other similar approved body in respect of the incapacity for which sickness benefit is payable. " Income " does not include child endowment, or other payments in respect of children, the Commonwealth hospital benefits and pharmaceutical benefits, or a tuberculosis allowance or an amount paid in reimbursement of medical, dental or similar expenses actually paid. There is no means test on property.

Where a person qualified for sickness benefit receives or is entitled to receive (in respect of the same period and the same incapacity for which sickness benefit is payable) any payment by way of compensation (including workers' compensation), damages, or otherwise under any law (except payments for which he has contributed), the amount of the compensation, etc., is not taken into account as income but the payment (or its weekly equivalent) is deducted from the rate of sickness benefit otherwise payable.

There is a waiting period of seven days in respect of which unemployment or sickness benefit is not payable. A special benefit may be granted to a person not qualified for unemployment or sickness benefit who is not in receipt of an age, invalid or widow's pension or a service pension, if by reason of age, physical or mental disability or domestic circumstances, or for any other reason, he is unable to earn a sufficient livelihood for himself and his dependants. Unemployment and sickness beneficiaries are eligible to participate in the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service under the same conditions as invalid pensioners. Payment of an unemployment or sickness benefit may be refused if the claimant or beneficiary, on being required, fails to undergo a medical examination or to receive treatment or undertake training or to do any suitable work.

2. **Unemployment Benefits.**—(i) *Number on Benefit.*—The following table shows the number of persons on benefit at the end of each month of 1958. Current figures are published in the *Monthly Bulletin of Employment Statistics.*

NUMBER OF PERSONS ON UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT AT END OF EACH MONTH.(*a*)

Month.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia.		
									Males.	Females.	Persons.
1958—January ..	9,835	4,974	9,357	1,518	2,596	434	4	37	24,273	4,482	28,755
February ..	9,575	4,085	9,431	1,425	2,257	326	19	45	22,141	5,022	27,163
March ..	8,673	4,135	7,814	1,521	2,018	243	33	48	19,359	5,126	24,485
April ..	9,533	5,006	7,831	1,873	2,214	296	23	35	20,875	5,936	26,811
May ..	10,465	5,894	5,799	2,075	2,543	459	10	37	20,552	6,730	27,282
June ..	11,669	6,899	4,905	2,258	3,005	639	9	34	22,051	7,367	29,418
July ..	12,054	7,442	3,907	2,385	3,363	712	8	44	22,266	7,649	29,915
August ..	11,309	7,435	3,176	2,204	3,219	891	3	41	21,104	7,174	28,278
September	10,587	6,735	2,984	1,930	2,875	849	3	39	19,098	6,904	26,002
October ..	10,267	5,656	2,874	1,706	2,709	789	1	35	17,494	6,543	24,037
November	9,827	4,916	3,031	1,505	2,354	635	2	32	15,872	6,430	22,302
December ..	11,819	5,436	5,460	1,703	2,501	580	4	62	20,919	6,646	27,565

(*a*) Last Saturday of month.

(ii) *Amounts Paid.*—The amounts paid in unemployment benefits for the months January to December, 1958 are shown in the following table. Current figures are published in the *Monthly Review of Business Statistics.*

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT PAYMENTS DURING EACH MONTH.

(£.)

Month.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia.
1958—January ..	179,179	99,557	203,408	25,026	45,082	10,077	52	986	563,367
February ..	203,414	102,353	205,671	24,435	41,073	7,696	166	694	585,502
March ..	182,866	61,596	159,839	30,179	38,606	5,709	411	496	479,702
April ..	146,321	83,867	147,873	27,594	38,843	4,993	668	622	450,781
May ..	193,420	101,650	138,520	30,619	43,446	6,344	402	637	515,038
June ..	158,193	103,707	90,921	43,399	47,103	9,231	154	752	453,460
July ..	193,615	128,807	56,153	38,302	62,084	11,185	167	242	490,555
August ..	242,138	137,362	63,074	40,322	63,919	16,476	93	683	564,067
September	185,346	112,751	52,735	47,784	59,990	15,376	65	548	474,595
October ..	194,390	117,628	53,877	38,240	57,488	19,684	29	957	482,293
November	190,161	104,760	48,703	29,201	46,367	11,748	23	463	431,426
December ..	146,846	75,468	84,531	23,448	51,751	11,274	62	348	393,728

§ 5. Industrial Disputes.

1. **General.**—The collection of information relating to industrial disputes involving stoppage of work in Australia was initiated by this Bureau at the beginning of the year 1913. An examination of official reports, newspapers, and other publications showed that there was insufficient material for the compilation of complete information for years prior to 1913. Particulars for the first complete year were published in Labour Report No. 5 and for following years in subsequent issues.

2. **Industrial Groups.**—(i) *States and Territories*, 1958.—In the following table particulars of industrial disputes (involving a stoppage of work of 10 man-days or more) which occurred during 1958 are shown for each State and Territory according to industrial groups.

The number of industrial disputes recorded during 1958 was 987, as compared with 1,103 during the previous year. In New South Wales 624 disputes occurred in 1958, 347 of which involved workers engaged in the coal-mining industry. Working days lost during 1958 amounted to 439,890 for all disputes in Australia, and the estimated loss of wages to £1,590,603. Corresponding figures for 1957 were 630,213 and £2,308,622.

A graph showing, for a number of years, the working days lost as a result of industrial disputes in the main industrial groups will be found on page 132.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES(*a*): INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, 1958.

Class.	Industrial Group.	Number.	Workers Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages. (£)
			Directly.	Indirectly. (*b*)	Total.		
	New South Wales.						
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	50	5,838	1,648	7,486	32,559	114,472
III.	Food, Drink, etc.	11	876	136	1,012	2,251	7,398
IV.	Clothing, Textiles, etc. ..	1	333	..	333	333	1,167
V.	Books, Printing, etc.	2	182	110	292	1,893	7,320
VI.	Other Manufacturing ..	30	6,796	1,102	7,898	13,252	47,924
VII.	Building	37	3,291	228	3,519	11,218	48,759
VIII.	(i) Coal-mining	347	69,864	505	70,369	126,136	449,815
	(ii) Other Mining, Quarries, etc.	3	306	177	483	1,319	6,510
IX.	Railway and Tramway Services	13	3,452	..	3,452	1,640	5,387
X.	Other Transport	18	4,314	..	4,314	8,787	31,955
XI.	(i) Stevedoring	96	41,527	..	41,527	28,658	100,289
	(ii) Shipping, etc.	3	172	..	172	417	1,737
XII.	Pastoral, Agricultural, etc. ..	1	143	..	143	445	1,025
XIII.	Domestic, Hotels, etc. ..	4	335	..	335	898	1,944
XIV.	Miscellaneous	8	493	..	493	1,731	6,942
	Total	*624*	*137,922*	*3,906*	*141,828*	*231,537*	*832,644*
	Victoria.						
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	9	1,454	53	1,507	18,022	60,837
III.	Food, Drink, etc.	7	2,020	600	2,620	10,689	40,788
IV.	Clothing, Textiles, etc. ..	2	329	228	557	516	995
VI.	Other Manufacturing ..	9	1,103	49	1,152	3,631	9,848
VII.	Building	11	1,475	162	1,637	17,390	52,592
IX.	Railway and Tramway Services	1	14	..	14	14	37
X.	Other Transport	4	525	..	525	1,791	8,096
XI.	(i) Stevedoring	16	38,048	..	38,048	44,481	155,688
	(ii) Shipping, etc.	3	212	32	244	2,780	9,827
XIV.	Miscellaneous	4	414	..	414	541	1,638
	Total	*66*	*45,594*	*1,124*	*46,718*	*99,855*	*340,346*
	Queensland.						
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	8	8,085	6	8,091	5,398	18,568
III.	Food, Drink, etc.	16	5,666	1,964	7,630	24,062	104,274
VI.	Other Manufacturing ..	7	720	30	750	1,825	5,141
VII.	Building	3	3,119	13	3,132	4,265	14,430
VIII.	(i) Coal-mining	68	9,975	11	9,986	23,807	101,398
	(ii) Other Mining, Quarries, etc.	2	532	..	532	761	3,050
IX.	Railway and Tramway Services..	4	1,031	..	1,031	762	1,585
X.	Other Transport	2	189	..	189	775	3,955
XI.	(i) Stevedoring	89	29,943	..	29,943	25,923	90,588
	(ii) Shipping, etc.	1	50	..	50	50	170
XIV.	Miscellaneous	3	898	..	898	238	503
	Total	*203*	*60,208*	*2,024*	*62,232*	*87,866*	*343,662*

For footnotes *see* next page.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES(*a*): INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, 1958—*continued.*

Class.	Industrial Group.	Number.	Workers Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages. (£.)
			Directly.	Indirectly. (*b*)	Total.		
	South Australia.						
I.	Wood, Furniture, etc. ..	1	80	..	80	30	120
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	4	402	..	402	455	1,566
III.	Food, Drink, etc.	2	131	..	131	302	893
VI.	Other Manufacturing ..	1	155	..	155	155	435
VII.	Building	1	300	..	300	900	3,150
VIII.	(ii) Other Mining, Quarries, etc.	2	261	..	261	751	2,600
IX.	Railway and Tramway Services	1	216	..	216	79	400
X.	Other Transport	2	921	..	921	1,934	8,497
XI.	(i) Stevedoring	7	5,497	..	5,497	3,906	13,674
XIV.	Miscellaneous	1	166	62	228	826	3,205
	Total	*22*	*8,129*	*62*	*8,191*	*9,338*	*34,540*
	Western Australia.						
III.	Food, Drink, etc.	4	197	160	357	373	1,148
VI.	Other Manufacturing ..	3	241	..	241	261	828
VIII.	(i) Coal-mining	1	660	..	660	850	3,275
XI.	(i) Stevedoring	9	9,284	..	9,284	985	3,449
	(ii) Shipping, etc.	2	52	..	52	88	482
XIV.	Miscellaneous	1	413	..	413	413	1,200
	Total	*20*	*10,847*	*160*	*11,007*	*2,970*	*10,382*
	Tasmania.						
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	2	110	..	110	791	2,085
VI.	Other Manufacturing ..	1	28	..	28	28	112
VIII.	(ii) Other Mining, Quarries, etc.	1	1,200	..	1,200	300	1,000
XI.	(i) Stevedoring	20	7,930	..	7,930	3,389	11,869
	Total	*24*	*9,268*	..	*9,268*	*4,508*	*15,066*
	Northern Territory.						
VII.	Building	2	130	..	130	130	485
XI.	(i) Stevedoring	19	1,866	..	1,866	1,151	4,033
XIV.	Miscellaneous	6	1,539	..	1,539	2,095	8,045
	Total	*27*	*3,535*	..	*3,535*	*3,376*	*12,563*
	Australian Capital Territory.						
VII.	Building	1	70	..	70	440	1,400
	Total	*1*	*70*	..	*70*	*440*	*1,400*
	Australia.						
I.	Wood, Furniture, etc. ..	1	80	..	80	30	120
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	73	15,889	1,707	17,596	57,225	197,528
III.	Food, Drink, etc.	40	8,890	2,860	11,750	37,677	154,501
IV.	Clothing, Textiles, etc. ..	3	662	228	890	849	2,162
V.	Books, Printing, etc.	2	182	110	292	1,893	7,320
VI.	Other Manufacturing ..	51	9,043	1,181	10,224	19,152	64,288
VII.	Building	55	8,385	403	8,788	34,343	120,816
VIII.	(i) Coal-mining	416	80,499	516	81,015	150,793	554,488
	(ii) Other Mining, Quarries, etc.	8	2,299	177	2,476	3,131	13,160
IX.	Railway and Tramway Services	19	4,713	..	4,713	2,495	7,409
X.	Other Transport	26	5,949	..	5,949	13,287	52,503
XI.	(i) Stevedoring	256	134,095	..	134,095	108,493	379,590
	(ii) Shipping, etc.	9	486	32	518	3,335	12,216
XII.	Pastoral, Agricultural, etc. ..	1	143	..	143	445	1,025
XIII.	Domestic, Hotels, etc. ..	4	335	..	335	898	1,944
XIV.	Miscellaneous	23	3,923	62	3,985	5,844	21,533
	Total	**987**	**275,573**	**7,276**	**282,849**	**439,890**	**1,590,603**

(*a*) Refers only to disputes involving a stoppage of work of 10 man-days or more. (*b*) Persons thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred but not themselves parties to the dispute.

(ii) *Australia.*—The following table shows, for various industrial groups, the number of industrial disputes, the number of workers involved, and the losses in working days and wages for each of the years 1939 and 1954 to 1958.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES(*a*): AUSTRALIA.

Year.	Manufacturing. (Groups I. to VI.)	Building. (Group VII.)	Mining. (Group VIII.)		Transport. (Groups IX. to XI.)	Other. (Groups XII. to XIV.)	All Groups.
			(i) Coal-mining.	(ii) Other Mining.			
			NUMBER.				
1939 ..	20	3	362	4	6	21	416
1954 ..	192	47	942	4	290	15	1,490
1955 ..	277	72	777	8	377	21	1,532
1956 ..	164	81	665	5	361	30	1,306
1957 ..	165	50	518	7	337	26	1,103
1958 ..	170	55	416	8	310	28	987
			WORKERS INVOLVED.				
1939 ..	8,818	57	137,792	900	2,017	3,246	152,830
1954 ..	57,010	6,925	155,630	494	145,521	4,494	370,074
1955 ..	87,295	22,297	135,543	1,105	191,595	6,812	444,647
1956 ..	45,459	21,225	126,631	7,889	213,386	13,393	427,983
1957 ..	40,684	32,562	110,446	3,741	145,498	4,112	337,043
1958 ..	40,832	8,788	81,015	2,476	145,275	4,463	282,849
			WORKING DAYS LOST.				
1939 ..	108,709	563	291,067	3,805	35,016	19,994	459,154
1954 ..	244,770	31,751	255,726	7,720	352,311	9,361	901,639
1955 ..	493,075	69,443	225,336	9,106	188,532	25,392	1,010,884
1956 ..	284,717	68,073	198,354	12,633	521,662	35,944	1,121,383
1957 ..	205,381	45,907	206,977	5,209	162,643	4,096	630,213
1958 ..	116,826	34,343	150,793	3,131	127,610	7,187	439,890
			ESTIMATED LOSS IN WAGES. (£.)				
1939 ..	83,540	424	335,033	4,728	22,114	9,877	455,716
1954 ..	767,051	115,972	862,384	41,265	1,207,932	26,607	3,021,211
1955 ..	1,533,880	234,596	789,322	31,661	641,604	79,258	3,310,321
1956 ..	1,033,759	259,582	683,710	69,840	1,809,656	110,514	3,967,061
1957 ..	740,512	162,153	761,109	30,356	599,889	14,603	2,308,622
1958 ..	425,919	120,816	554,488	13,160	451,718	24,502	1,590,603

(*a*) Refers only to disputes involving a stoppage of work of 10 man-days or more.

Industrial disputes in coal-mining in 1958 represented 42 per cent. of the total number of disputes and accounted for 34 per cent. of the total working days lost. The majority of the coal-mining disputes occurred in New South Wales, where the number of workers engaged in the industry is very much larger than in any other State.

3. **States and Territories.**—The number of industrial disputes in each State and Territory during the years 1939 and 1955 to 1958, together with the workers involved, the working days lost, and the estimated loss in wages, are given in the following table:—

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES(*a*): STATES AND TERRITORIES.

State or Territory.	Year.	Number.	Workers Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages. (£)
			Directly.	Indirectly. (*b*)	Total.		
New South Wales	1939	386	139,301	9,230	148,531	410,183	419,330
	1955	1,072	260,353	13,678	274,031	673,325	2,230,935
	1956	878	219,458	6,796	226,254	611,279	2,199,764
	1957	761	253,041	5,950	258,991	505,910	1,860,101
	1958	624	137,922	3,906	141,828	231,537	832,644
Victoria	1939	10	1,989	180	2,169	27,313	19,946
	1955	66	33,255	2,287	35,542	138,507	435,356
	1956	54	35,594	2,283	37,877	111,665	386,139
	1957	47	8,728	453	9,181	13,444	45,576
	1958	66	45,594	1,124	46,718	99,855	340,346
Queensland	1939	5	373	2	375	1,870	1,753
	1955	274	83,026	3,626	86,652	99,318	328,046
	1956	269	112,409	2,973	115,382	238,812	815,592
	1957	221	43,123	4,611	47,734	95,300	348,422
	1958	203	60,208	2,024	62,232	87,866	343,662
South Australia	1939	2	170	5	175	1,880	1,416
	1955	43	23,969	129	24,098	66,881	203,182
	1956	21	18,527	..	18,527	74,666	259,636
	1957	13	6,274	7	6,281	3,703	12,571
	1958	22	8,129	62	8,191	9,338	34,540
Western Australia	1939	7	1,108	145	1,253	14,100	9,578
	1955	16	9,504	345	9,849	9,582	32,704
	1956	14	9,780	1,341	11,121	31,944	111,504
	1957	14	5,352	..	5,352	3,068	10,801
	1958	20	10,847	160	11,007	2,970	10,382
Tasmania	1939	4	53	..	53	166	93
	1955	48	13,204	240	13,444	20,387	70,927
	1956	45	15,969	..	15,969	46,907	172,206
	1957	36	7,236	..	7,236	5,330	18,294
	1958	24	9,268	..	9,268	4,508	15,066
Northern Territory	1939	2	234	40	274	3,642	3,600
	1955	12	1,013	2	1,015	2,740	8,551
	1956	24	2,770	..	2,770	5,197	18,194
	1957	9	2,183	..	2,183	2,428	9,241
	1958	27	3,535	..	3,535	3,376	12,563
Australian Capital Territory	1939	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1955	1	16	..	16	144	620
	1956	1	83	..	83	913	4,026
	1957	2	58	27	85	1,030	3,616
	1958	1	70	..	70	440	1,400
Australia	1939	416	143,228	9,602	152,830	459,154	455,716
	1955	1,532	424,340	20,307	444,647	1,010,884	3,310,321
	1956	1,306	414,590	13,393	427,983	1,121,383	3,967,061
	1957	1,103	325,995	11,048	337,043	630,213	2,308,622
	1958	987	275,573	7,276	282,849	439,890	1,590,603

(*a*) Refers only to disputes involving a stoppage of work of 10 man-days or more. (*b*) Persons thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred but not themselves parties to the dispute.

4. Duration.—(i) *General.*—The duration of each industrial dispute involving a loss of work, i.e., the time between the cessation and resumption of work, has been calculated in working days, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, except where the establishment involved carries on a continuous process (e.g., metal smelting and cement manufacture). The following classification has been adopted:—(*a*) One day and less; (*b*) two days and more than one day; (*c*) three days and more than two days; (*d*) over three days and less than one week; (*e*) one week and less than two weeks; (*f*) two weeks and less than four weeks; (*g*) four weeks and less than eight weeks; and (*h*) eight weeks and over.

(ii) *Industry Groups*, 1958. The following table shows, for the year 1958, industrial disputes in "coal-mining", "stevedoring" and "other industries" classified according to duration.

DURATION OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES(*a*): AUSTRALIA, 1958.

Duration.	Number.	Workers Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages. (£)
		Directly.	Indirectly. (*b*)	Total.		
COAL-MINING.						
1 day and less	258	39,685	352	40,037	38,258	141,548
2 days and more than 1 day	85	25,214	50	25,264	37,628	137,828
3 days and more than 2 days	28	3,742	2	3,744	10,130	36,325
Over 3 days and less than 1 week	21	7,435	..	7,435	25,753	90,577
1 week and less than 2 weeks	19	3,707	112	3,819	28,411	101,288
2 weeks and less than 4 weeks	4	622	..	622	7,323	33,091
4 weeks and less than 8 weeks	1	94	..	94	3,290	13,831
8 weeks and over	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	*416*	*80,499*	*516*	*81,015*	*150,793*	*554,488*
STEVEDORING.						
1 day and less	208	110,367	..	110,367	56,130	196,732
2 days and more than 1 day	37	15,213	..	15,213	18,903	65,936
3 days and more than 2 days	5	931	..	931	2,306	8,082
Over 3 days and less than 1 week	2	731	..	731	2,437	8,330
1 week and less than 2 weeks	3	4,993	..	4,993	26,125	91,438
2 weeks and less than 4 weeks	1	1,860	..	1,860	2,592	9,072
4 weeks and less than 8 weeks	..	..	..	..	..	..
8 weeks and over	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	*256*	*134,095*	..	*134,095*	*108,493*	*379,590*
OTHER INDUSTRIES.						
1 day and less	133	36,453	477	36,930	27,506	93,854
2 days and more than 1 day	41	6,714	2,940	9,654	17,033	62,091
3 days and more than 2 days	34	4,629	157	4,786	12,992	42,147
Over 3 days and less than 1 week	29	3,917	698	4,615	16,661	61,608
1 week and less than 2 weeks	45	3,904	1,282	5,186	30,090	118,837
2 weeks and less than 4 weeks	23	4,367	1,111	5,478	50,322	185,286
4 weeks and less than 8 weeks	8	959	95	1,054	24,410	87,474
8 weeks and over	2	36	..	36	1,590	5,228
Total	*315*	*60,979*	*6,760*	*67,739*	*180,604*	*656,525*
ALL INDUSTRIES.						
1 day and less	599	186,505	829	187,334	121,894	432,134
2 days and more than 1 day	163	47,141	2,990	50,131	73,564	265,855
3 days and more than 2 days	67	9,302	159	9,461	25,428	86,554
Over 3 days and less than 1 week	52	12,083	698	12,781	44,851	160,515
1 week and less than 2 weeks	67	12,604	1,394	13,998	84,626	311,563
2 weeks and less than 4 weeks	28	6,849	1,111	7,960	60,237	227,449
4 weeks and less than 8 weeks	9	1,053	95	1,148	27,700	101,305
8 weeks and over	2	36	..	36	1,590	5,228
Total	**987**	**275,573**	**7,276**	**282,849**	**439,890**	**1,590,603**

(*a*) Refers only to disputes involving a stoppage of work of 10 man-days or more. (*b*) Persons thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred but not themselves parties to the dispute.

(iii) *Summary, 1939 and 1955 to 1958.* The following table shows particulars of industrial disputes in Australia for the years 1939 and 1955 to 1958 according to limits of duration:—

DURATION OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES(*a*): AUSTRALIA.

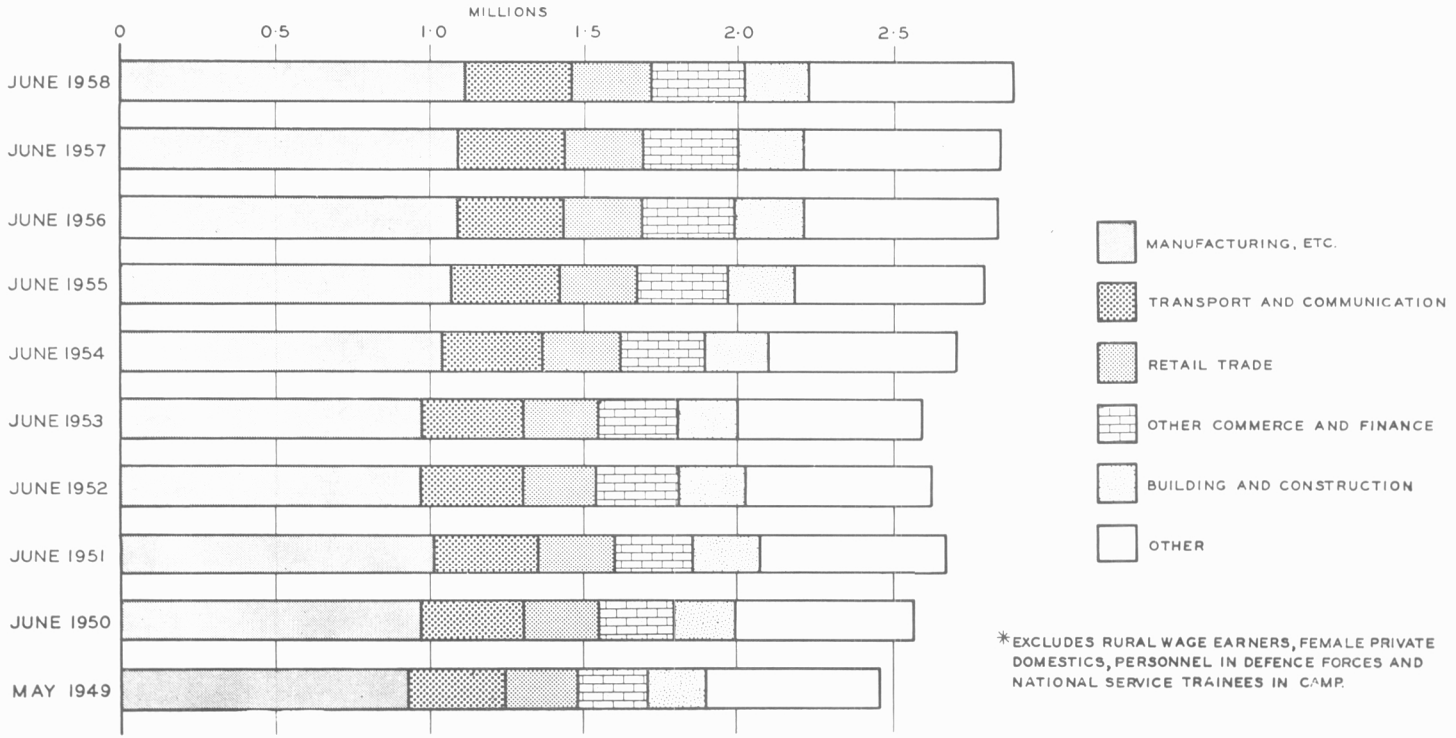
Duration.	Year.	Number.	Workers Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages. (£)
			Directly.	Indirectly. (*b*)	Total.		
1 day and less	1939	230	96,184	1,191	97,375	97,375	106,970
	1955	896	263,510	6,958	270,468	217,701	740,358
	1956	778	293,244	2,823	296,067	239,142	829,035
	1957	671	239,700	2,261	241,961	186,126	675,566
	1958	599	186,505	829	187,334	121,894	432,134
2 days and more than 1 day	1939	60	16,398	872	17,270	34,540	35,648
	1955	262	85,684	1,725	87,409	139,321	490,540
	1956	208	42,610	832	43,442	73,004	246,346
	1957	168	28,928	924	29,852	51,595	180,311
	1958	163	47,141	2,990	50,131	73,564	265,855
3 days and more than 2 days	1939	38	10,103	1,374	11,477	34,431	36,427
	1955	128	27,113	1,748	28,861	78,601	252,266
	1956	72	8,749	3,768	12,517	30,197	99,208
	1957	95	15,816	142	15,958	40,825	152,769
	1958	67	9,302	159	9,461	25,428	86,554
Over 3 days and less than 1 week	1939	34	7,540	404	7,944	36,387	37,056
	1955	72	10,479	5,152	15,631	59,399	199,667
	1956	64	12,095	465	12,560	50,269	175,032
	1957	54	8,698	3,756	12,454	40,882	149,582
	1958	52	12,083	698	12,781	44,851	160,515
1 week and less than 2 weeks	1939	34	6,864	2,169	9,033	75,323	67,736
	1955	105	18,560	1,862	20,422	124,431	403,817
	1956	108	20,377	3,008	23,385	134,678	490,327
	1957	65	9,747	1,842	11,589	60,831	247,756
	1958	67	12,604	1,394	13,998	84,626	311,563
2 weeks and less than 4 weeks	1939	10	5,002	3,224	8,226	116,182	116,882
	1955	42	11,812	1,937	13,749	139,652	475,476
	1956	39	34,513	837	35,350	394,049	1,371,948
	1957	26	5,945	1,030	6,975	41,095	151,607
	1958	28	6,849	1,111	7,960	60,237	227,449
4 weeks and less than 8 weeks	1939	6	618	307	925	25,463	15,908
	1955	17	2,713	829	3,542	93,852	282,367
	1956	30	2,231	326	2,557	160,317	212,269
	1957	20	15,825	1,093	16,918	121,960	446,633
	1958	9	1,053	95	1,148	27,700	101,305
8 weeks and over	1939	4	519	61	580	39,453	39,089
	1955	10	4,469	96	4,565	157,927	465,830
	1956	7	771	1,334	2,105	139,727	542,896
	1957	4	1,336	..	1,336	86,899	304,398
	1958	2	36	..	36	1,590	5,228
Total	1939	416	143,228	9,602	152,830	459,154	455,716
	1955	1,532	424,340	20,307	444,647	1,010,884	3,310,321
	1956	1,306	414,590	13,393	427,983	1,121,383	3,967,061
	1957	1,103	325,995	11,048	337,043	630,213	2,308,622
	1958	987	275,573	7,276	282,849	439,890	1,590,603

(*a*) Refers only to disputes involving a stoppage of work of 10 man-days or more. (*b*) Persons thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred but not themselves parties to the dispute.

5. **Causes.**—(i) *General.*—In issues of the Labour Report prior to No. 40, 1951, the causes of industrial disputes were classified in some detail for all industries combined. As from 1950, however, stoppages have been analysed in three separate groups, "Coal-mining", "Stevedoring" and "Other Industries". This dissection has been made because the pattern of the disputes in coal-mining and stevedoring differs significantly from that in other industries.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT*

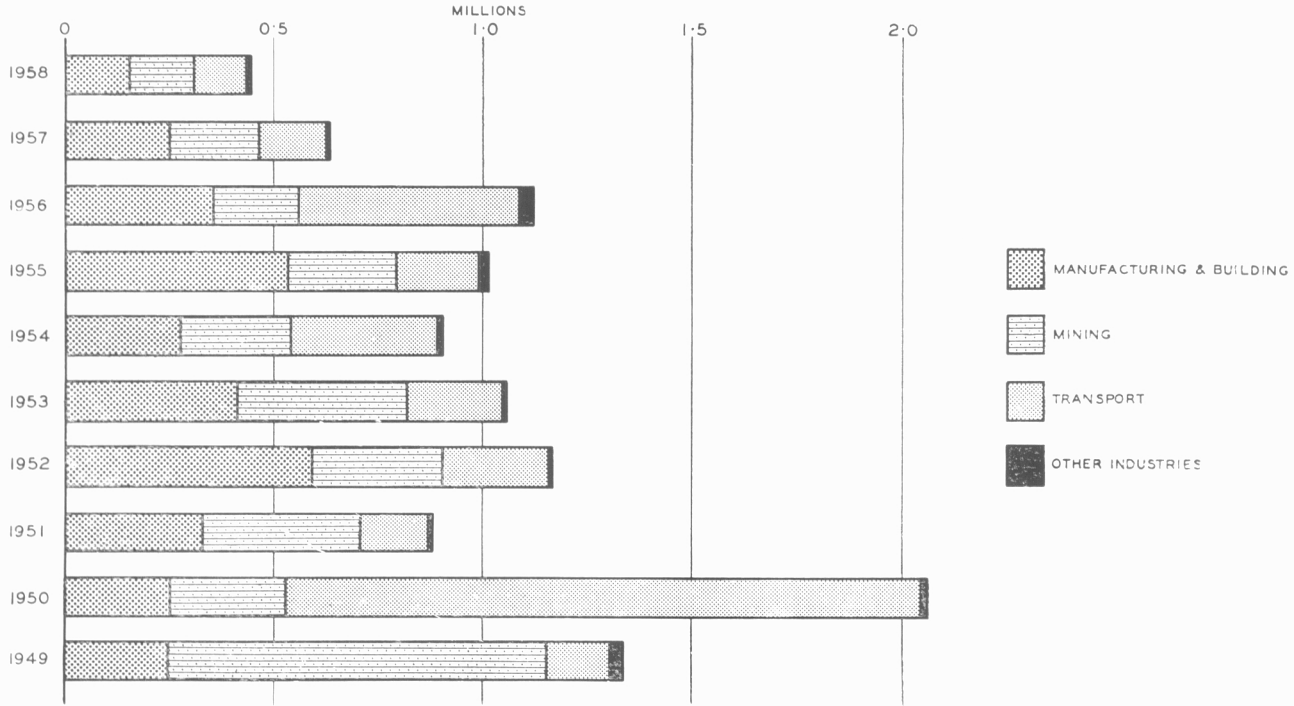
AUSTRALIA, 1949 TO 1958



*EXCLUDES RURAL WAGE EARNERS, FEMALE PRIVATE DOMESTICS, PERSONNEL IN DEFENCE FORCES AND NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINEES IN CAMP.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, AUSTRALIA, 1949 TO 1958

WORKING DAYS LOST – INDUSTRIAL GROUPS



Under the present classification, causes are grouped under four main headings:—(1) Wages, Hours and Leave; (2) Physical Working Conditions and Managerial Policy; (3) Trade Unionism; (4) Other Causes. The first group is restricted to disputes involving general principles relating to wages, hours and leave; minor questions regarding the claims to pay or leave by individual employees are included under managerial policy. The second group comprises disputes regarding physical working conditions and general questions of managerial policy, which term covers disciplinary action, the promotion of employees, the employment of particular individuals, personal disagreements between workers and supervisory staff and disputes arising from the computation of wages, leave, etc., in individual cases. The third group includes stoppages over employment of non-unionists, inter-union and intra-union disputes, disputes over recognition of union activities, and sympathy stoppages in support of employees in another industry. The last group comprises disputes by way of protest against situations not arising from the usual relationship of employer and employee, e.g., political matters, and cases (occurring mainly in the coal-mining industry) where the cause of the stoppage is not officially made known to the management.

As the items included under these headings differ somewhat from those included under the similar headings used for classifying causes of disputes in years prior to 1950, figures for the years 1950 to 1958 are not strictly comparable with those for earlier years.

(ii) *Industry Groups.*—The following table shows particulars of industrial disputes for 1958 classified according to cause in three industry groups.

CAUSES OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES(*a*): AUSTRALIA, 1958.

Cause of Dispute.	Coal-mining.	Stevedoring.	Other Industries.	All Industries.
NUMBER OF DISPUTES.				
Wages, Hours and Leave	6	2	65	73
Physical Working Conditions and Managerial Policy	242	188	200	630
Trade Unionism	40	14	26	80
Other	128	52	24	204
Total	**416**	**256**	**315**	**987**
WORKERS INVOLVED.				
Wages, Hours and Leave	936	787	14,138	15,861
Physical Working Conditions and Managerial Policy	36,398	85,496	36,835	158,729
Trade Unionism	4,429	8,526	3,477	16,432
Other	39,252	39,286	13,289	91,827
Total	**81,015**	**134,095**	**67,739**	**282,849**
WORKING DAYS LOST.				
Wages, Hours and Leave	2,463	191	53,560	56,214
Physical Working Conditions and Managerial Policy	86,362	82,304	110,587	279,253
Trade Unionism	7,505	6,999	8,635	23,139
Other	54,463	18,999	7,822	81,284
Total	**150,793**	**108,493**	**180,604**	**439,890**

(*a*) Refers only to disputes involving a stoppage of work of 10 man-days or more.

(iii) *Summary, 1939 and 1954 to 1958.*—The following table gives particulars of industrial disputes according to causes for the years 1939 and 1954 to 1958.

CAUSES OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES(*a*): AUSTRALIA.(*b*)

Cause of Dispute.	1939.	1954.	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.
NUMBER OF DISPUTES.						
Wages, Hours and Leave ..	96	100	201	107	75	73
Physical Working Conditions and Managerial Policy ..	197	975	887	792	674	630
Trade Unionism	50	160	172	106	70	80
Other	73	255	272	301	284	204
Total	**416**	**1,490**	**1,532**	**1,306**	**1,103**	**987**
WORKERS INVOLVED.						
Wages, Hours and Leave ..	29,290	42,923	139,522	130,526	62,708	15,861
Physical Working Conditions and Managerial Policy ..	56,783	214,060	184,449	149,208	151,863	158,729
Trade Unionism	18,651	45,437	37,998	19,816	13,612	16,432
Other	48,106	67,654	82,678	128,433	108,860	91,827
Total	**152,830**	**370,074**	**444,647**	**427,983**	**337,043**	**282,849**
WORKING DAYS LOST.						
Wages, Hours and Leave ..	128,525	136,738	467,591	667,964	181,839	56,214
Physical Working Conditions and Managerial Policy ..	189,510	413,118	398,147	295,633	321,422	279,253
Trade Unionism	54,749	278,332	62,103	40,844	19,460	23,139
Other	86,370	73,451	83,043	116,942	107,492	81,284
Total	**459,154**	**901,639**	**1,010,884**	**1,121,383**	**630,213**	**439,890**

(*a*) Refers only to disputes involving a stoppage of work of 10 man-days or more. (*b*) Owing to the use of a new classification, figures for 1954 to 1958 are not strictly comparable with those for 1939.

6. **Results.**—In issues of the Labour Report prior to No. 40, tables were included showing analyses of the results of industrial disputes over a period of years. This tabulation was discontinued because of the difficulty of obtaining the details necessary to make a classification, in precise terms, of the results of industrial disputes.

7. **Methods of Settlement.**—(i) *General.*—In issues of the Labour Report prior to No. 41, the methods of settlement of industrial disputes were classified in some detail for all industries combined. Commencing with the year 1951, stoppages in "Coal-mining", "Stevedoring" and "Other Industries" have been analysed separately.

The present classification is actually a refinement of the previous classification, four of the six headings having been subdivided. Thus the figures for recent years in the table on page 137 are still comparable with those for earlier years based on the previous classification.

The previous classification of methods of settlement was—

(i) By negotiation between the parties, without the intervention or assistance of authorities constituted under State or Commonwealth industrial legislation.

(ii) Under the provisions of State industrial legislation.

(iii) Under the provisions of Commonwealth industrial legislation.

(iv) By filling places of workers on strike or locked out.

(v) By closing down establishment permanently.

(vi) By other methods.

The revised classification is—

(1) Negotiation.—By private negotiation between the parties involved, or their representatives, without the intervention or assistance of authorities constituted under State or Commonwealth industrial legislation. (Part of (i) above.)

(2) Mediation.—By the arbitration or mediation of persons whose intervention or assistance is not based on State or Commonwealth industrial legislation. (Balance of (i) above.)

(3) State Legislation—

(*a*) Under State Conciliation and Arbitration or Wages Board Legislation.—By intervention or assistance of an industrial authority or authorities created by or constituted under State conciliation and arbitration or Wages Board legislation, or by reference to such authorities or by compulsory or voluntary conference. (Part of (ii) above.)

(*b*) Under Other State Legislation.—By intervention, assistance or advice of State Government officials or inspectors. (Balance of (ii) above.)

(4) Commonwealth and Joint Commonwealth-State Legislation—

(*a*) By compulsory or voluntary conference or by intervention or assistance of, or by reference to, the industrial tribunals created by or constituted under the following Acts. (Part of (iii) above)—

(i) Conciliation and Arbitration Act.
(ii) Coal Industry Acts.
(iii) Stevedoring Industry Act.
(iv) Other Acts (Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Power Act; Navigation Act; and Public Service Arbitration Act).

(*b*) By intervention, assistance or advice of Commonwealth Government officials or inspectors. (Balance of (iii) above.)

(5) By filling places of workers on strike or locked out. (Formerly (iv) above.)

(6) By closing down establishment permanently. (Formerly (v) above.)

(7) By resumption without negotiation. (Part of (vi) above.)

(8) By other methods. (Balance of (vi) above.)

As the tables refer only to industrial disputes involving stoppages of work of 10 man-days or more, they do not reflect the relative importance of the work of authorities operating under State and Commonwealth legislation.

(ii) *Industry Groups.*—In the following table particulars of industrial disputes for 1958 classified according to method of settlement are shown separately for coal-mining, stevedoring and other industries.

METHODS OF SETTLEMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES(*a*): AUSTRALIA, 1958.

Method of Settlement.	Coal-mining.	Steve-doring.	Other Industries.	All Industries.
NUMBER OF DISPUTES.				
1. By private negotiation	101	9	95	205
2. By mediation not based on legislation	5	..	1	6
3. State legislation—				
(*a*) Under State Conciliation, etc., legislation	1	..	54	55
(*b*) By reference to State Government officials	3	..	1	4
4. Commonwealth and Commonwealth–State legislation—				
(*a*) Industrial Tribunals under—				
(i) Conciliation and Arbitration Act	..	..	66	66
(ii) Coal Industry Acts	35	..	..	35
(iii) Stevedoring Industry Act	..	2	2	4
(*b*) By reference to Commonwealth Government officials	..	70	1	71
7. By resumption without negotiation	271	175	95	541
8. By other methods	..	..	..	..
Total	**416**	**256**	**315**	**987**
WORKERS INVOLVED.				
1. By private negotiation	14,349	1,153	16,551	32,053
2. By mediation not based on legislation	4,128	..	80	4,208
3. State legislation—				
(*a*) Under State Conciliation, etc., legislation	97	..	9,487	9,584
(*b*) By reference to State Government officials	2,406	..	365	2,771
4. Commonwealth and Commonwealth–State legislation—				
(*a*) Industrial Tribunals under—				
(i) Conciliation and Arbitration Act	..	..	9,147	9,147
(ii) Coal Industry Acts	7,465	..	..	7,465
(iii) Stevedoring Industry Act	..	4,226	234	4,460
(*b*) By reference to Commonwealth Government officials	..	5,456	16	5,472
7. By resumption without negotiation	52,570	123,260	31,859	207,689
8. By other methods	..	..	..	..
Total	**81,015**	**134,095**	**67,739**	**282,849**
WORKING DAYS LOST.				
1. By private negotiation	27,482	2,225	59,656	89,363
2. By mediation not based on legislation	10,359	..	40	10,399
3. State legislation—				
(*a*) Under State Conciliation, etc., legislation	194	..	36,789	36,983
(*b*) By reference to State Government officials	3,626	..	730	4,356
4. Commonwealth and Commonwealth–State legislation—				
(*a*) Industrial Tribunals under—				
(i) Conciliation and Arbitration Act	..	..	44,382	44,382
(ii) Coal Industry Acts	21,031	..	..	21,031
(iii) Stevedoring Industry Act	..	21,023	2,670	23,693
(*b*) By reference to Commonwealth Government officials	..	4,734	112	4,846
7. By resumption without negotiation	88,101	80,511	36,225	204,837
8. By other methods	..	..	..	..
Total	**150,793**	**108,493**	**180,604**	**439,890**

(*a*) Refers only to disputes involving a stoppage of work of 10 man-days or more.

(iii) *Summary, 1939 and 1954 to 1958.* Information for Australia for the years specified is given in the following table:—

METHODS OF SETTLEMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES(*a*) : AUSTRALIA.(*b*)

Method of Settlement.	1939.	1954.	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.
NUMBER OF DISPUTES.						
By private negotiation	294	293	286	245	188	211
Under State industrial legislation	7	77	87	80	63	59
Under Commonwealth industrial legislation	6	130	151	124	119	176
By filling places of workers on strike or locked out	1	2	..	2	..	..
By closing down establishment permanently	2	..	..	..	..	..
By other methods	106	985	1,005	853	733	541
Total	**416**	**1,487**	**1,529**	**1,304**	**1,103**	**987**
WORKERS INVOLVED.						
By private negotiation	82,684	45,053	65,305	28,155	31,626	36,261
Under State industrial legislation	5,354	24,169	31,148	19,780	12,221	12,355
Under Commonwealth industrial legislation	3,268	35,238	22,420	20,165	22,078	26,544
By filling places of workers on strike or locked out	20	199	..	116	..	..
By closing down establishment permanently	178	..	..	..	..	..
By other methods	61,326	262,753	324,600	359,536	271,118	207,689
Total	**152,830**	**367,412**	**443,473**	**427,752**	**337,043**	**282,849**
WORKING DAYS LOST.						
By private negotiation	298,652	130,057	295,534	157,930	168,621	99,762
Under State industrial legislation	39,013	118,160	163,667	66,619	47,190	41,339
Under Commonwealth industrial legislation	46,450	119,767	72,311	63,535	97,612	93,952
By filling places of workers on strike or locked out	20	460	..	364	..	..
By closing down establishment permanently	3,892	..	..	..	..	..
By other methods	71,127	508,020	468,190	831,356	316,790	204,837
Total	**459,154**	**876,464**	**999,702**	**1,119,804**	**630,213**	**439,890**

(*a*) Refers only to disputes involving a stoppage of work of 10 man-days or more. (*b*) Differences between the total figures of this table and the corresponding totals of other tables in this section are due to disputes which were incomplete at the end of the calendar year.

§ 6. Industrial Accidents.

1. **General.**—In issues of the Labour Report prior to No. 39, tables were published showing details of all industrial accidents. These were compiled from returns received from the Chief Inspectors of Factories, the Chief Inspectors of Machinery, the Boiler, Lift and Scaffolding Inspectors, and the Departments of Mines in the several States. However, inquiries revealed that except in the case of mining accidents the usefulness of these statistics was seriously impaired by lack of definition and coverage from State to State and it was decided to publish only the statistics of mining accidents.

2. **Mining Accidents.**—(i) *Sources of Information.*—Information regarding mining accidents is obtained from the Departments of Mines in the respective States. Accidents occurring in crushing and ore-dressing works on mine sites are included in the figures. Similar tables for years prior to 1951 included accidents in all smelting and metallurgical works. Accidents in quarries, brick and clay pits, etc., have also been excluded from the following table. The figures shown are therefore not directly comparable with those appearing in issues of the Labour Report prior to No. 40.

(ii) *Classification.*—The following table gives particulars of mining accidents reported to the Mines Department in each State in 1958.

MINING ACCIDENTS: CLASSIFICATION ACCORDING TO CAUSE, 1958.(*a*)

Cause of Accident.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia. (*b*)
FATAL ACCIDENTS.							
Metalliferous Mines—							
1. Below Ground—							
Accidents caused by explosives	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" " " falls of earth	3	..	..	..	3	1	7
" " " falling down shafts, etc.	..	..	2	..	3	..	5
Other accidents	4	..	1	..	2	..	7
2. Above Ground—(*c*)							
Accidents caused by machinery in motion	1	..	..	..	2	2	5
Other accidents	1	..	1	..	..	..	2
3. Accidents in Batteries, Ore-dressing Works, etc., at Mines	..	..	2	..	..	..	2
Coal Mines—							
1. Below Ground—							
Accidents caused by mine explosions (fire damp, etc.)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Accidents caused by explosives (dynamite, etc.)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Accidents caused by falls of earth	5	..	2	..	..	..	7
Other accidents	5	..	..	..	..	..	5
2. Above Ground—							
Accidents caused by machinery in motion	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Other accidents	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	**20**	..	**8**	..	**10**	**3**	**41**

For footnotes *see* next page.

MINING ACCIDENTS: CLASSIFICATION ACCORDING TO CAUSE, 1958(*a*)—*continued.*

Cause of Accident.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia. (*b*)
NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS INCAPACITATING FOR OVER 14 DAYS.							
Metalliferous Mines——							
1. Below Ground—							
Accidents caused by explosives ..	5	..	8	..	2	..	15
,, ,, ,, falls of earth	18	1	9	1	28	3	60
,, ,, ,, falling down shafts, etc...	2	..	..	1	18	..	21
Other accidents	243	..	58	9	313	25	648
2. Above Ground—(*c*)							
Accidents caused by machinery in motion	17	..	8	4	18	12	59
Other accidents	74	..	47	16	50	37	224
3. Accidents in Batteries, Ore-dressing Works, etc., at Mines	..	..	74	39	2	14	129
Coal Mines—(*d*)							
1. Below Ground—							
Accidents caused by mine explosions (fire damp, etc.) ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2
Accidents caused by explosives (dynamite, etc.)	13	..	..	..	..	..	13
Accidents caused by falls of earth	28	1	31	..	2	2	64
Other accidents	37	1	151	..	101	4	294
2. Above Ground—							
Accidents caused by machinery in motion	..	..	..	3	..	..	3
Other accidents	6	..	28	7	21	3	65
Total	445	3	414	80	555	100	1,597

(*a*) The figures relating to mining accidents may not in all cases correspond exactly with those published by the State Mines Departments, owing to some lack of uniformity regarding the definition of a non-fatal accident. (*b*) Excludes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (*c*) Excludes quarries, brick and clay pits, etc. (*d*) For New South Wales the figures represent the number reportable under the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1912–1953.

During the year 1958, 31 fatal mining accidents were reported as having occurred below ground as compared with 10 above ground. Fatal accidents in metalliferous mines in 1958 numbered 28 as against 13 in coal mines. The number of non-fatal mining accidents below ground was 1,117 and above ground 480.

§ 7. Workers Compensation Legislation.

In the following pages is a summary of the principal provisions of Workers' Compensation Acts and Ordinances in force in Australia as at 30th June, 1958.

CONSPECTUS OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAWS

State.	Act or Ordinance.	Judicial Administration.
New South Wales	Workers' Compensation Act, 1926–1957	Workers' Compensation Commission (Judges, District Court status). In practice, Judge sits alone; four Courts sit at one time
Victoria.. ..	Workers' Compensation Act 1951–1953	County Court Judge (sitting with workers' and employers' representatives as Workers' Compensation Board)
Queensland ..	Workers' Compensation Acts, 1916 to 1956	Special Insurance Commissioner (no legal qualifications required by Statute)
South Australia ..	Workmen's Compensation Act, 1932–1956	Special Magistrates
Western Australia	Workers' Compensation Act, 1912–1956	Workers' Compensation Board of three members; Chairman, a legal practitioner, and a nominee of (*a*) employers' organization and (*b*) employees' organization
Tasmania ..	Workers' Compensation Act 1927–1957	Supreme Court Judges (sitting alone)
Commonwealth of Australia	Commonwealth Employees' Compensation Act 1930-1956	One Commissioner (Secretary to the Treasury), with power of delegation
Northern Territory	Workmen's Compensation Ordinance 1949–1957	Matters in dispute may by consent of each party be settled by arbitration by a committee or by a single arbitrator, or they may be settled by a Local Court
Australian Capital Territory	Workmen's Compensation Ordinance 1951–1956	Matters in dispute may by consent of each party be settled by arbitration by a committee or by a single arbitrator. Questions of law may be referred to the Court of Petty Sessions

IN AUSTRALIA (AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1958).

Appeals.	Maximum Wages of "Workers" Compensated.	Waiting Period.	Medical, Surgical and Hospital Expenses.
On the question of law only to Supreme Court, High Court and Privy Council	Unlimited ..	Nil ..	£300 medical and surgical; £300 hospital; £25 ambulance; unless Commission directs that employer shall be liable for a further specified sum
On question of law upon case stated for opinion of Full Court of the Supreme Court, High Court, Privy Council	£2,000, excluding overtime	Nil ..	Unlimited medical, hospital, nursing and ambulance service and costs of burial
Any person claiming compensation who objects to the ruling thereon of the Insurance Commissioner may require the matter to be heard and determined by an Industrial Magistrate. Either party to the proceedings may appeal from his decision. Such appeal shall be made to the Full Bench of the Industrial Court. Unless the Court orders that additional evidence shall be taken, the appeal which shall be by way of rehearing shall be heard and determined upon the evidence and proceedings before the Industrial Magistrate concerned	Unlimited ..	1 day for compensation	£70 hospital; £70 medical; in death where no dependants, medical expenses and burial, maximum £100
Questions of law and fact to Supreme Court, High Court, Privy Council	£1,826 p.a. (£35 p.w.) (overtime allowances excluded)	1 day, Nil for payment of medical expenses	£5 for transport; £40 for treatment by doctor, etc., or for medical appliances; £100 for hospital; £5 for registered nurse; maximum of all £150. Special Magistrate may order payment of expenses in excess of £150 actually and reasonably incurred
Jurisdiction exclusive; decisions final on facts. Board may state a case for Full Court of Supreme Court on matters of law	Unlimited ..	Nil ..	£109 1s. 2d. medical, £163 11s. 10d. hospital, £54 10s. 7d. funeral in the case of males; and £109 1s. medical, £163 11s. 6d. hospital, £54 10s. 6d. funeral in the case of females
To Full Court by way of rehearing, High Court, Privy Council	£35 p.w.	Nil ..	£200
Rehearing by Local, County or District Court, then appeal to Supreme Court on questions of law, High Court, Privy Council	Unlimited. Application only to Commonwealth Government employees, and of such Commonwealth authorities as are prescribed	Nil ..	£200 medical, surgical or hospital, or over in exceptional circumstances if Commissioner considers circumstances warrant. £60 funeral expenses
An appeal to the Supreme Court may be made from the decision of a committee or an arbitrator or of a Local Court	£2,000 per annum, exclusive of payments for overtime, bonuses and special allowances	Nil ..	Not exceeding £200 for medical, surgical or hospital treatment or ambulance service, except in special circumstances. This is additional to other compensation
An appeal to the Supreme Court may be made from the decision of a committee or an arbitrator or of the Court of Petty Sessions	£2,000, excluding overtime, bonuses and special allowances	Nil ..	Not exceeding £200 unless exceptional circumstances warrant payment of larger sum

CONSPECTUS OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAWS

State.	Workers' Compensation Payments	
	Percentage of Average Weekly Earnings (a.w.e.).	Maximum.
New South Wales	75 per cent.	£9 15s. with no dependants; with dependants £14 5s. or a.w.e., whichever is lower
Victoria		*Adult* £8 16s. with no dependants (with dependants £12 16s. or a.w.e., whichever is lower). *Minor* £6 8s. without dependants (with dependants £11 4s. or a.w.e., whichever is lower)
Queensland	75 per cent.	£9 19s. adjustable according to movements of basic wage (with dependants, a.w.e.)
South Australia	75 per cent.	Married man with dependent wife or child under 16 years, £12 16s. or a.w.e., whichever is lower. Any other workman, £8 15s.
Western Australia		Adult male on or above basic wage, £9 12s. p.w. with no dependants. (With dependants, £13 10s. p.w. or a.w.e., whichever is lower.) Adult female on or above female basic wage, £6 11s. p.w. with no dependants. (With dependants, £9 16s. p.w. or a.w.e., whichever is lower.) Male or female below basic wage, such sum as bears to £9 12s. p.w. or £6 11s. p.w. respectively, the ratio which his or her a.w.e. bear to the basic wage at the date of accident (with no dependants). (With dependants the maximum is the a.w.e.)
Tasmania		*Adult* £10 plus dependants' allowances or 75 per cent. of a.w.e., whichever is lower *Minor* £7 10s. or 75 per cent. of a.w.e., whichever is lower
Commonwealth of Australia		£8 15s. (£6 10s. if a minor not receiving adult rate of pay) plus allowances for dependants; or a sum equal to the pay of the employee at the time of the injury or of the rate of pay of an employee of the same class as subsequently varied by competent authority or following upon a variation in the cost of living; whichever is the less. In all cases plus the cost of medical treatment
Northern Territory		£8 15s. p.w. during period of incapacity
Australian Capital Territory		Same as Commonwealth of Australia (above)

IN AUSTRALIA (AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1958)—*continued.*

in case of Total Disablement.

Minimum.	In respect of Dependants.	Total Liability.
Adult male, £6 7s. 6d. Adults whose a.w.e. are less than £8 10s., 100 per cent. of a.w.e. but not exceeding £6 7s. 6d. Minors whose a.w.e. are less than £6, 100 per cent. of a.w.e. but not exceeding £4 10s.	£2 15s. for wife or adult dependant, plus £1 2s. 6d. per child (including children to whom worker stands *in loco parentis*), subject to prescribed maximum	Unlimited.
Same as for maximum ..	£2 8s. for wife or relative caring for his children if wife or relative is wholly or mainly dependent upon him, plus 16s. per child under 16 years of age, subject to prescribed maximum	£2,800 except in cases of (*a*) permanent and total disablement, or (*b*) permanent and partial disablement of major degree
£4, or 100 per cent. of a.w.e. Not less than £3 10s. in the case of Commonwealth Age and Invalid Pensioners	£2 10s. per week for wife, 15s. per week each child and stepchild under 16 years of age, subject to prescribed maximum	£2,800
£3, except for workman under 21 with no dependants whose a.w.e. were less than £3, where minimum payment is a.w.e.	£2 10s. for dependent wife and £1 each child under 16 years of age	£2,600
£4 7s., or 100 per cent. of a.w.e., whichever is lower	£2 10s. for dependent wife, £1 each dependent child or dependent stepchild under 16 years of age	(*a*) where permanent incapacity results, £2,750. (*b*) other than (*a*), £2,617.
Same as for maximum ..	£2 10s. for wife or any relative standing *in loco parentis* to the children of the worker, £1 4s. 6d. per child under 16 years of age, subject to prescribed maximum	£2,340
Same as for maximum ..	£2 5s. (*a*) for dependent wife; or (*b*) female dependant over 16 years of age, who is either caring for a child under 16 years of age and dependent on employee or a member of employee's family, plus £1 per dependent child, subject to maximum of weekly pay at date of injury	£2,350 except in respect of total and permanent incapacity, when liability unlimited
Same as for maximum ..	£2 5s. for wife or dependent female over 16 years in special circumstances. £1 for each dependent child under 16 years of age	£2,350, excluding cost of medical, surgical and hospital treatment and ambulance service. This does not limit compensation in case of death or total and permanent incapacity
Same as for maximum ..	£2 5s. for wife or a female (over 16 years of age) wholly or mainly dependent on the workman, who is a member of his family or caring for a child under 16 years of age wholly or mainly dependent on the workman, plus £1 for each child under 16 years of age who is wholly or mainly dependent upon the workman	Unlimited where the injury results in total and permanent incapacity, otherwise £2,350 plus the cost of medical treatment

CONSPECTUS OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAWS

State.	Death Payments.		
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Special Provision for Children.
New South Wales	Four years' earnings: £2,750. Deduction of lump sum or weekly payments made before death from death benefit is not permitted. Maximum funeral expenses when workman leaves no dependants are £80.	£1,000	£150 additional for each dependent child under 16 years of age
Victoria ..	£2,240, plus £80 for each dependent child (excluding payments for total incapacity, if any, paid prior to death)	Nil	£80 for each dependent child
Queensland ..	£2,500, plus £75 for each child and stepchild under 16 years of age (total dependants); in case of minors dependency is presumed and minimum of £200 is payable to parents of deceased worker	£2,500 total dependants; £250 partial dependants; £200 death of worker under 21 years of age	£75 for each child or stepchild
South Australia	Four years' earnings, maximum £2,350, plus £80 for each dependent child, plus burial expenses not exceeding £60 (excluding weekly payments for partial or total incapacity, if any, paid prior to death)	£500, plus £80 for each dependent child	£80 for each dependent child
Western Australia	£3,000, plus £82 for each dependent child under 16 years of age not being an ex-nuptial child	£873 for a wholly dependent widow, mother, child or stepchild under 16 years of age only, plus £82 for each dependent child	£82 for each dependent child or stepchild under 16 years of age not being an ex-nuptial child
Tasmania ..	£2,240, plus £80 for each dependent child under 16 years of age	Nil	£80 for each dependent child
Commonwealth of Australia	£2,350, plus £100 for each dependent child	Proportionate payment for partial dependency	£100 additional for each totally or mainly dependent child under 16 years of age
Northern Territory	£2,350, plus £100 for each dependent child under 16 years of age, plus up to £60 funeral expenses	Nil	£100 for each dependent child under 16 years of age
Australian Capital Territory	£2,350 plus £100 for each dependent child under 16 years of age, plus the cost of medical treatment. Any amount, by way of weekly payments, paid or payable before the death of the workman in respect of his total or partial incapacity for work shall be disregarded	Same as for maximum	£100 for each dependent child under 16 years of age

IN AUSTRALIA (AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1958)—*continued.*

Lump Sum for Scheduled Injuries.	Provision *re* Aged and Injured Workers.	Insurance.
Yes. Two or more such sums may be claimed in respect of the same accident without any limit on total amount so payable. No deduction in respect of weekly payments is permitted	No	Compulsory and competitive
Yes (excluding payments made on account of period of illness resulting from injury)	No	Compulsory and competitive
Yes	No, except provision for minimum disablement payments	Compulsory with State Government Insurance Office
Yes	No	Compulsory and competitive
Yes	No	Compulsory and competitive
Yes	No	Compulsory and competitive
Yes	No	.. .. ..
Yes. This is in addition to previous weekly payments	No	Compulsory (unless exempted by the Administrator) and competitive
Yes. Such payment is not subject to deduction in respect of any amount previously paid by way of a weekly payment	No	Compulsory (unless exempted by the Minister) and competitive

CONSPECTUS OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAWS

State.	Government Insurance Office	Compensation payable in respect of injuries received whilst travelling to or from work.
New South Wales	Yes, competitive	Same as for injury arising out of or in course of employment
Victoria	Yes, competitive	Yes
Queensland	Yes, monopoly	As for other injuries
South Australia	No, except for employees of South Australian Government	Only if being conveyed by employer's transport or travelling to a trade, technical or other school for training
Western Australia	Yes. Competitive, except in mining operations	Only if travelling between employer's establishment and any trade, technical or other training school during ordinary working hours
Tasmania	Yes, competitive	Yes, if travelling to a trade, technical or other training school. Cover is also provided while a worker is travelling between his place of residence and his place of employment, provided he is travelling in a vehicle belonging to, hired by or used under contract with his employer for the conveyance of workers to and from their places of employment.
Commonwealth of Australia	..	Yes
Northern Territory	No	Yes
Australian Capital Territory	No	Yes

IN AUSTRALIA (AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1958)—*continued.*

Dusts.			
Silicosis.		Other Dusts.	
Maximum Weekly Payments.	Total Liability.	Maximum Weekly Payments.	Total Liability.
Special scheme with benefits as for other injuries	Special scheme with benefits as for other injuries	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries
As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries
£7	Compensation is payable to a sufferer during his lifetime. On death weekly payments to widow continue until total of £2,500 paid. Minimum aggregate payment to widow, £300; maximum weekly payment to widow, £5	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries
Workmen's Compensation (Silicosis) Scheme As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries
As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries
Workers' (Occupational Diseases) Relief Fund Act 1954 Unmarried, £10; married, £12 10s; each child under 16 years, £1 4s. 6d.	£2,340	As for silicosis ..	£2,340
As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries
As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries
As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries

CHAPTER V.—LABOUR ORGANIZATIONS.

§ 1. Labour Organizations in Australia.

1. **General.**—In Labour Report No. 2 an outline was given of the method adopted to ascertain the number of members of labour organizations in Australia, and tabulated results were included up to the end of 1912. From the beginning of 1913, quarterly returns were obtained from a considerable number of trade unions, and these were supplemented at the end of each year by special inquiries as to the membership of those unions which, owing to the nature of the callings and industries covered, were unable to furnish quarterly returns. The figures shown below are prepared from a special collection of membership at 31st December each year. The affairs of single unions are not disclosed in the published results and this has assisted in securing complete information. The Bureau is indebted to the secretaries of trade unions for their co-operation in supplying information.

In this chapter figures for the years 1955 to 1958 are compared with those for 1939. Particulars for earlier years will be found in previous issues of the Labour Report.

2. **Trade Unions.**—(i) *Types.*—The types of trade unions in Australia vary greatly, and range from the small independent association to the large interstate organization, which, in its turn, may be a branch of an international body. Broadly speaking, there are four distinct classes of labour organizations:—(i) the local independent; (ii) the State; (iii) the interstate; and (iv) the Australasian or international. The schemes of organization of interstate or federated unions vary greatly in character. In some unions the State organizations are bound together under a system of unification with centralized control, while in others the State units are practically independent and self-governing, the federal bond being loose and existing only for one or two specified purposes.

(ii) *Number and Membership, States.*—The following table gives particulars of the number of separate unions and the number of members at the end of the years 1939 and 1955 to 1958:—

TRADE UNIONS: NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP.

Year.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Number of Separate Unions.									
1939.. ..	200	149	114	117	141	79	4	15	(*a*)
1955.. ..	235	160	130	138	154	101	20	32	380
1956.. ..	237	162	135	140	157	101	23	33	372
1957.. ..	235	162	133	137	156	98	21	33	375
1958.. ..	231	161	131	136	156	98	20	30	373
									370
Number of Members.									
1939.. ..	358,391	216,803	180,653	67,282	67,833	22,062	761	1,685	915,470
1955.. ..	731,960	446,372	305,509	146,422	111,959	51,401	2,440	5,799	1,801,862
1956.. ..	736,152	441,286	314,782	147,728	110,447	52,708	2,352	5,953	1,811,408
1957.. ..	737,358	443,040	310,821	144,914	114,095	51,951	2,408	5,567	1,810,154
1958.. ..	731,375	444,150	313,744	147,029	114,494	51,508	2,433	6,485	1,811,218
Percentage Increase in Membership.(*b*)									
1939.. ..	3.3	0.8	6.5	8.7	0.1	4.8	5.6	9.6	3.4
1955.. ..	—0.1	2.9	0.1	—0.8	2.2	2.2	12.5	—2.9	0.8
1956.. ..	0.6	—1.1	3.0	0.9	—1.4	2.5	—3.6	2.7	0.5
1957.. ..	0.2	0.4	—1.3	—1.9	3.3	—1.4	2.4	—6.5	—0.1
1958.. ..	—0.8	0.3	0.9	1.5	0.3	—0.9	1.0	16.5	0.1

(*a*) Without interstate duplication. (*See* letterpress on p. 149.) (*b*) On preceding year.

NOTE.—Minus sign (—) denotes decrease.

In the table above, under the heading " Number of Separate Unions ", a union with members in a State is counted as one union within that State. The figures by States do not add to the Australian total (shown in the last column) because a union represented in more than one State is included in the figure for each State in which it is represented, but is counted only once in the Australian total.

The collection of statistics relating to the number of branches of trade unions, appearing in issues of the Labour Report prior to No. 39, has been discontinued.

(iii) *Number and Membership, Industrial Groups.*—The following table shows the number and membership of trade unions in Australia in industrial groups at the end of the years 1955 to 1958 compared with 1939.

TRADE UNIONS: INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, AUSTRALIA.

Industrial Group.	1939.	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.
NUMBER OF SEPARATE UNIONS.(a)					
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	4	6	6	6	7
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. ..	22	15	15	15	15
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. ..	35	37	35	35	34
IV. Clothing, Textiles, etc. ..	12	7	7	7	7
V. Books, Printing, etc.	8	6	6	6	6
VI. Other Manufacturing	37	36	38	38	36
VII. Building	28	29	29	30	30
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. ..	13	13	13	12	12
IX. Railway and Tramway Services ..	29	25	25	25	25
X. Other Transport	6	9	10	11	10
XI. Shipping, Wharf Labour, etc. ..	21	14	14	14	14
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc. ..	5	3	3	3	3
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	18	12	12	12	12
XIV. Miscellaneous—					
(i) Banking, Insurance and Clerical	20	19	20	18	19
(ii) Public Service	50	62	63	66	66
(iii) Retail and Wholesale ..	8	12	12	12	12
(iv) Municipal, Sewerage and Labouring	11	10	10	10	10
(v) Other Miscellaneous ..	53	57	57	53	52
Total	**380**	**372**	**375**	**373**	**370**
NUMBER OF MEMBERS.					
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	27,990	47,678	46,081	45,460	42,631
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. ..	99,731	266,897	267,141	270,798	275,273
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. ..	80,328	106,865	105,230	107,999	110,563
IV. Clothing, Textiles, etc.	68,847	107,618	105,064	101,967	96,239
V. Books, Printing, etc.	22,303	41,514	42,464	43,312	45,455
VI. Other Manufacturing	52,074	85,023	83,537	86,115	86,816
VII. Building	45,651	134,224	145,448	135,541	132,492
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. ..	48,812	46,641	47,081	42,221	38,332
IX. Railway and Tramway Services ..	105,938	146,401	145,791	141,566	137,438
X. Other Transport	19,488	66,627	60,293	59,985	62,104
XI. Shipping, Wharf Labour, etc. ..	28,760	41,612	39,328	38,162	38,131
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc. ..	40,276	66 224	64,717	62,028	61,120
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	13,177	37,722	38,209	39,196	40,441
XIV. Miscellaneous—					
(i) Banking, Insurance and Clerical	39,013	114,218	110,734	112,722	110,747
(ii) Public Service	89,848	203,437	209,497	216,200	227,033
(iii) Retail and Wholesale ..	36,290	71,583	72,635	73,238	74,736
(iv) Municipal, Sewerage and Labouring	46,552	83,572	86,231	87,740	82,260
(v) Other Miscellaneous ..	50,392	134,006	141,927	145,904	149,407
Total	**915,470**	**1,801,862**	**1,811,408**	**1,810,154**	**1,811,218**

(a) Without interstate duplication. *See* above.

(iv) *Numbers of Members and Proportion of Wage and Salary Earners.*—(*a*) *General.*—The following tables show the estimated percentages of wage and salary earners in employment who are members of trade unions. As current estimates of wage and salary earners in employment do not include employees engaged in rural industry or females in private domestic service, the percentages have been calculated on figures obtained by adding to the end of year estimates the numbers of employees in rural industry and female private domestic service recorded at the Census of 30th June, 1954. For this reason and also because the membership of trade unions includes some persons not in employment, the percentages shown in the tables must be regarded as approximations.

(*b*) *States.*—The table below shows, for each State and the Northern Territory, the number of males, females and persons who were members of trade unions at 31st December, 1958 and the estimated percentages as described above. In interpreting these, it should be noted that certain employees such as those in professional occupations may not be eligible for membership of a specified union, while others may not reside in a locality covered by a union devoted to their particular trade or occupation. The percentages are not directly comparable with those published in issues of the Labour Report prior to No. 44.

TRADE UNIONS: NUMBER OF MEMBERS AND PROPORTION OF TOTAL WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, 31st DECEMBER, 1958.

State.	Number of Members.			Proportion of Total Wage and Salary Earners. (Per cent.)		
	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.
New South Wales *a*	596,417	141,443	737,860	68	42	61
Victoria ..	355,272	88,878	444,150	57	35	51
Queensland ..	247,347	66,397	313,744	77	64	73
South Australia ..	124,040	22,989	147,029	62	34	55
Western Australia	96,637	17,857	114,494	63	36	57
Tasmania ..	43,720	7,788	51,508	60	33	53
Northern Territory	2,249	184	2,433	35	12	30
Australia ..	**1,465,682**	**345,536**	**1,811,218**	**65**	**41**	**59**

(*a*) Includes the Australian Capital Territory.

(*c*) *Australia.*—Similar particulars for Australia as at the end of each of the years 1939 and 1955 to 1958 are given in the following table.

TRADE UNIONS : NUMBER OF MEMBERS AND PROPORTION OF TOTAL WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, AUSTRALIA.

Year.	Number of Members.			Proportion of Total Wage and Salary Earners. (Per cent.)		
	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.
1939	778,336	137,134	915,470	52	24	44
1955	1,464,016	337,846	1,801,862	68	43	61
1956	1,470,606	340,802	1,811,408	67	43	61
1957	1,463,985	346,169	1,810,154	65	42	59
1958	1,465,682	345,536	1,811,218	65	41	59

(v) *Classification according to Number of Members.*—The following table shows the number and membership of all trade unions in Australia at the end of each of the years 1939 and 1955 to 1958, classified according to size. In this table interstate unions are counted once only.

TRADE UNIONS: CLASSIFICATION ACCORDING TO NUMBER OF MEMBERS, AUSTRALIA.

Year.	Under 2,000.	2,000 and under 5,000.	5,000 and under 10,000.	10,000 and under 20,000.	20,000 and under 30,000.	30,000 and under 40,000.	40,000 and under 50,000.	50,000 and over.	Total.
				NUMBER OF UNIONS.					
1939 ..	298	41	14	19	5	3			380
1955 ..	264	43	20	17	10	10	2	6	372
1956 ..	266	42	22	16	10	10	3	6	375
1957 ..	261	42	27	14	10	10	3	6	373
1958 ..	260	42	24	16	10	7	5	6	370
				MEMBERSHIP.					
1939 ..	125,565	134,204	87,077	265,710	122,519	180,395			915,470
1955 ..	134,101	134,823	140,970	222,814	243,592	358,009	91,819	475,734	1,801,862
1956 ..	132,698	126,736	153,548	211,937	235,043	350,672	136,062	464,712	1,811,408
1957 ..	128,554	122,311	194,132	186,720	232,801	358,095	131,744	455,797	1,810,154
1958 ..	130,333	130,933	178,003	217,500	242,497	248,913	215,745	447,294	1,811,218
				PROPORTION OF TOTAL MEMBERSHIP. (PER CENT.)					
1939 ..	13.7	14.6	9.5	29.1	13.4	19.7			100.0
1955 ..	7.5	7.5	7.8	12.3	13.5	19.9	5.1	26.4	100.0
1956 ..	7.3	7.0	8.5	11.7	13.0	19.4	7.5	25.6	100.0
1957 ..	7.1	6.8	10.7	10.3	12.8	19.8	7.3	25.2	100.0
1958 ..	7.2	7.2	9.8	12.0	13.4	13.8	11.9	24.7	100.0

In the last part of the preceding table the percentage which the membership in each group bears to the total membership of all groups is given. The tendency towards closer organization is evidenced by the fact that although membership of trade unions increased between 1912 and 1958 by 318 per cent., the number of unions having less than 2,000 members considerably decreased, namely, from 360 to 260. In 1958, 7.2 per cent. of trade union members belonged to unions having less than 2,000 members, as compared with 13.7 per cent. in 1939 and 28.1 per cent. in 1912.

(vi) *Interstate or Federated Trade Unions.*—The following table gives particulars regarding the number and membership of interstate or federated trade unions having branches in two or more States. The figures include interstate unions registered under the Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1904–1958, as well as federated unions which are not so registered:—

INTERSTATE OR FEDERATED TRADE UNIONS: NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP.(a)

Year.	Unions Operating in—					Total.
	2 States.	3 States.	4 States.	5 States.	6 States.	
	NUMBER OF UNIONS.					
1939	19	11	20	24	42	116
1955	14	9	21	32	65	141
1956	14	8	22	33	66	143
1957	15	8	22	33	64	142
1958	13	12	20	33	63	141
	NUMBER OF MEMBERS.					
1939	30,888	33,319	120,664	209,369	361,884	756,124
1955	34,536	59,752	144,282	420,769	925,723	1,585,062
1956	33,864	61,257	142,799	425,861	928,870	1,592,651
1957	31,281	64,510	206,839	383,194	892,089	1,577,913
1958	31,348	64,983	206,572	385,246	887,929	1,576,078

(a) Certain unions have, in addition to branches in the States, branches in the Northern Territory and in the Australian Capital Territory.

The number of organizations operating in two or more States increased from 72 in 1912 to 141 in 1958, and the ratio of the membership of such organizations to the total membership of all organizations rose from 65 per cent. to 87 per cent. during the same period.

3. **Central Labour Organizations.**—Delegate organizations, consisting of representatives from a group of trade unions, have been established in each of the capital cities, as well as in a number of other industrial centres. Their revenue is raised by means of a *per capita* tax on the members of each affiliated union. In the majority of the towns where such central organizations exist, most of the local unions are affiliated with the central organization, which is usually known as the Labour or the Trades Hall Council. In Western Australia a unified system of organization extends over the industrial centres throughout the State, and there is a provincial branch of the Australian Labour Party, having a central council and executive, and metropolitan and branch district councils with which the local bodies are affiliated. The central council, on which all district councils are represented, meets periodically. In the other States, however, the organization is not so close, and though provision usually exists in the rules of the central council in the capital city of each State for the organization of district councils, or for the representation on the central council of the local councils in the smaller industrial centres of the State, the councils in each State are, as a matter of fact, independent

bodies. The following table shows, for each State, the number of metropolitan and district or local labour councils, together with the number of unions and branches of unions affiliated therewith, at the end of the years 1939 and 1955 to 1958.

CENTRAL LABOUR ORGANIZATIONS : NUMBER, AND UNIONS AND BRANCH UNIONS AFFILIATED.

Year.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia.
NUMBER OF COUNCILS.									
1939.. ..	3	5	6	2	8	2	..	1	27
1955.. ..	11	9	13	6	10	5	..	1	55
1956.. ..	11	9	13	6	10	5	..	1	55
1957.. ..	11	9	12	6	10	5	..	1	54
1958.. ..	11	9	12	6	10	5	..	1	54
NUMBER OF UNIONS AND BRANCH UNIONS AFFILIATED.									
1939.. ..	103	179	79	50	210	59	..	9	689
1955.. ..	287	263	152	132	397	103	..	22	1,356
1956.. ..	290	262	161	141	399	103	..	22	1,378
1957.. ..	290	273	166	147	403	113	..	22	1,414
1958.. ..	297	269	171	150	400	113	..	23	1,423

The figures regarding number of unions do not necessarily represent separate unions, since the branches of a large union may be affiliated with the local trades councils in the several towns in which they are represented.

Between the trade union and the central organization of unions may be classed certain State or district councils organized on trade lines and composed of delegates from separate unions whose members' interests are closely connected by reason of their occupations. Delegate councils of bakers, bread carters and mill employees, or of unions connected directly or indirectly with the metal trades, or with the building trades, may be so classed.

A Central Labour Organization, now called the Australian Council of Trade Unions, came into being during 1927. The Council was created to function on behalf of the trade unions of Australia, and was founded at an All-Australian Trade Union Congress held in Melbourne in May, 1927. The A.C.T.U. consists of affiliated unions and affiliated Metropolitan and/or State Labour Councils and Provincial Councils. The Metropolitan or State Labour Council in each State is the State Branch of the A.C.T.U. and it has the right to appoint one representative to act on the executive of the Council. In addition to the representatives of the State Branches of the A.C.T.U., six delegates are elected by and from Congress, one from each of the following industry groups:—Building, Food and Distributive Services, Manufacturing, Metal, Services and Transport. To this Executive are added the four officers, namely, President, two Vice-Presidents, and Secretary, who are elected by and from the Australian Congress of Trade Unions.

The objectives of the A.C.T.U. are the socialization of industry, i.e., production, distribution and exchange, and the utilization of the resources of Australia for the benefit of the people—ensuring full employment, with rising standards of living, real security and full cultural opportunities for all. The methods to be adopted are:—the closer organization of the workers by the transformation of the Australian trade union movement from the craft

to an industrial basis, by grouping of unions in their respective industries and by the establishment of one union in each industry; the consolidation of the Australian Labour Movement with the object of unified control, administration, and action; the centralized control of industrial disputes; educational propaganda among unions; and political action to secure satisfactory working-class legislation.

The A.C.T.U. was the first interstate body in Australia with authority to deal with industrial matters of an interstate character affecting the trade union movement generally. It is also the body responsible for submitting to the Commonwealth Government the names of persons suitable for selection as the Australian workers' delegate to the annual International Labour Conference.

4. **Organizations Registered under the Conciliation and Arbitration Act.**—Under Part VIII. of the Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1904–1958, any association of employers in any industry who have, or any employer who has, employed, on an average taken per month, not less than 100 employees during the six months preceding application for registration, and any association of not less than 100 employees in any industry, may be registered.* Registered unions include both interstate associations and associations operating within one State only.

At the end of 1958 the number of employers' organizations registered under the provisions of the Act was 60. The number of unions registered at the end of 1958 was 158, with membership of 1,466,709, representing 81 per cent. of the total membership of all trade unions in Australia.

§ 2. International Labour Organization.

1. **General.**—The International Labour Organization (I.L.O.) was established on 11th April, 1919, as an autonomous institution associated with the League of Nations. Its original constitution was adopted as Part XIII. of the Treaty of Versailles and formed part of other treaties of peace. During the years between its establishment and the outbreak of the 1939–45 War, the I.L.O., with head-quarters at Geneva, played a leading role in promoting the improvement of labour conditions throughout the world.

In 1940, in order to ensure that the I.L.O. should be able to continue to function freely, a working centre was established at Montreal, Canada. In 1946 the Organization became the first of the specialized agencies of the United Nations. Under the terms of agreement, the United Nations recognizes the I.L.O. as a specialized agency having responsibility in the field defined by its constitution, which embraces labour conditions, industrial relations, employment organization, social security and other aspects of social policy. The Organization has three basic parts. These are the International Labour Conference, its highest authority, which as a rule meets annually; the Governing Body, its executive council, which usually meets three times each year; and the International Labour Office, which provides the Secretariat of the Organization. The Conference is composed of delegations from the Member States of the Organization. At the end of 1958 there were 79 Member States, each of which is entitled to be represented by four delegates—two Government, one representing employers and one representing workers, together with their advisers. Each delegate speaks and votes independently, so that all points of view in each country are fully expressed. The Governing Body consists of the representatives

* Under the Public Service Arbitration Act an association of less than 100 employees may be registered as an organization, provided that its members comprise at least three-fifths of all persons engaged in that industry in the Service. Such organizations are included in the figures shown in the paragraph following.

of twenty governments, and ten employers' and ten workers' representatives. Of the twenty government representatives, half are from the ten countries of major industrial importance and ten are elected by the remaining governments. These latter ten government representatives and the ten employers' and ten workers' titular delegates and the deputy members of the three groups are elected by their groups at the Conference every three years. Particulars are given in previous issues of the Labour Report of the proceedings of International Labour Conferences up to the 40th Session held in Geneva in June, 1957.

2. **The International Labour Conference.**—(i) *General.*—These Conferences are composed of government, employer and worker delegations from member countries. The employer and worker delegates to the International Labour Conferences must be chosen, under the provisions of the I.L.O. Constitution, by each Government in agreement with the most representative employer and worker organizations of the country. The principle function of the Conference (which meets at least once a year) is to draft international minimum social and labour standards which take the form of International Labour Conventions and Recommendations.

(ii) *Recent Sessions.*—Two sessions of the Conference were held in 1958, both in Geneva.

The 41st (Maritime) Session, held in May, was the first maritime session for 12 years, but it had been prepared for by the Preparatory Technical Maritime Conference held in London in 1956. The Australian delegation was:—Government delegates, Mr. A. A. L. Brentwood and Captain D. S. Bull; Employers' delegate, Mr. P. W. Haddy; Workers' delegate, Mr. T. Martin; together with their advisers.

The main topics were:—A general revision of the convention of 1949 on wages, hours of work and manning at sea, employment offices for seafarers, the effect on social conditions and safety of flag transfer, medical chests and medical advice by radio to ships at sea, suspension of officers' certificates of competence and general recognition of seafarers' national identity cards.

The 42nd Session was held in June. The Australian delegation was:—Government delegates, Dr. I. G. Sharp and Mr. G. Jockel; Employers' delegate, Mr. C. R. Bunning; Workers' delegate, Hon. A. J. Shard; together with their advisers.

The main topics were:—Discrimination in the field of employment and occupation, conditions of work in plantations, occupational health services, working conditions of fishermen and a general discussion on hours of work.

3. **Governing Body.**—The Governing Body has 40 members, of whom 20 represent governments, 10 employers throughout the world and 10 workers throughout the world. The Australian Government is a Deputy Member of the government group; Mr. L. C. Burne, President of the Australian Council of Employers' Federations, is a titular member of the employers' group; Mr. A. Monk, President of the A.C.T.U., is a titular member of the workers' group. Mr. P. Shaw, Australian Ambassador in Bonn, represented the Australian Government at the three meetings in March, May and November, 1958; Mr. Burne attended two and Mr. Monk one of these meetings.

4. **Industrial Committees.**—During 1958, Australia was represented by tripartite delegations, representing the government, the employers and the workers, at two meetings of specialists, both held in Geneva, one (in April) on the textile industry and the other (in December) on the timber industry.

5. I.L.O. Conventions and Recommendations.—(i) *General.*—An I.L.O. Convention is an international treaty which has to be approved by two-thirds of the delegates at the Conference before it is adopted. As part of their Constitutional obligations as Member States of the Organization, Governments are required to bring Conventions adopted by Sessions of the Conference to the attention of their competent national authorities (Parliament) to be considered for ratification. After a Government ratifies an I.L.O. Convention, not only does it enter into a formal treaty obligation to ensure compliance with its provisions, but also it must report annually to the International Labour Office (the I.L.O. Secretariat) on the measures it is taking to give effect to its provisions, and must furnish copies of these Reports to the national representative workers' and employers' organizations. Countries which do not ratify Conventions are still obliged to examine them, to report back to the I.L.O. about the state of their law and practice and give reasons why they have not ratified them.

Recommendations do not require ratification, but Governments are obliged to bring them to the attention of the competent national authorities for consideration. These authorities must in turn weigh the possibility of adopting legislation or taking any other action that may be necessary to give effect to the provisions of Recommendations. A Report describing the way in which these obligations have been discharged must be sent to the I.L.O.

The International Labour Conference, during its 42 Sessions between 1919 and 1958, has adopted 111 Conventions and 111 Recommendations setting forth international minimum standards. These constitute what has become known as the International Labour Code. The Code covers a wide range of subjects, including wages, hours of work, annual holidays with pay, age of admission to employment, medical examination for fitness for employment, maternity protection, industrial health, safety and welfare, social insurance and assistance, unemployment insurance, compensation for employment injuries, freedom of association, right to organize and bargain collectively, employment conditions of seamen, etc. The Code has played an important part in the improvement of working and living conditions all over the world since 1919.

As far as Australia is concerned, the provisions of the Constitution are such that only the Commonwealth Government, under the " external affairs " power, may ratify international treaties, including I.L.O. Conventions, on behalf of Australia. The Commonwealth Government thus becomes internationally responsible for ensuring their observance. However, the Constitutional division of powers as between the Commonwealth and the States is such that although the subject matter of some I.L.O. Conventions is solely within the legislative competence of the Commonwealth, the subject matter of the great majority is the joint responsibility of the Commonwealth and the States. In the case of this latter category of Conventions it is necessary, before such Conventions can be ratified by Australia, that the law and practice in each State should already be precisely (and not just generally) in accord with their provisions. In addition, the Commonwealth Government has to ensure that its own law and practice in the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory and, in some instances, in the general Commonwealth legislative field as well, are satisfactory. In other words, in respect of most I.L.O. Conventions, the law and practice in nine separate jurisdictions have to be precisely in accord with their provisions before they can be ratified by Australia. Moreover, it has been the policy of the Commonwealth Government since 1919, irrespective of party, not to proceed with ratification of I.L.O. Conventions that concern the States until each of the States has not only introduced satisfactory law and practice, but also formally agreed to ratification by the Commonwealth.

Further, the I.L.O. Constitution provides that I.L.O. Conventions, once ratified by a member country, have to be considered from the point of view of extending the ratification to that country's non-metropolitan territories (where such exist), and a Declaration indicating that country's attitude to such extensions has to be submitted to the I.L.O. In other words, as far as Australia is concerned, once an I.L.O. Convention has been ratified in respect of the mainland, consideration has to be given to its extension to the Territories of Papua and New Guinea, Nauru and Norfolk Island. In passing, it could be added that there are a few I.L.O. Conventions which apply only to non-metropolitan territories.

(ii) *Conventions ratified by Australia.*—As at 1st January, 1959, Australia had ratified 20 I.L.O. Conventions—16 solely of concern to the Commonwealth Government. A summary of the purpose and main provisions of each Convention is given in the following paragraphs.

No. 7—Minimum Age (Sea), 1920.—The main purpose of this Convention is to provide that young persons under the age of 14 years may not be employed or work on vessels, other than vessels upon which only members of the same family are employed. The master of every vessel is required to keep a register of all persons under the age of 16 years employed on board, or to enter their names in the articles of agreement. Work done by children on school or training ships is permitted when approved and supervised by the public authority.

Ratified by Australia 28th June, 1935. (This ratification does not apply to intra-state shipping.)

No. 8—Unemployment Indemnity (Shipwreck), 1920.—The main purpose of this Convention is to ensure to seamen who remain unemployed as the result of the loss or foundering of a vessel an indemnity for the period of unemployment. The total indemnity payable may be limited to two months' wages. The Convention also stipulates that seamen shall have the same remedies for recovering unemployment indemnities as they have for recovering arrears of wages earned during their service.

Ratified by Australia 28th June, 1935. (This ratification does not apply to intra-state shipping, but has been extended to the Territory of Papua and New Guinea.)

No. 9—Placing of Seamen, 1920.—The purpose of this Convention is to abolish fee-charging agencies for finding employment for seamen and to set forth standards for the establishment and operation of an adequate system of public employment offices for finding such employment without charge. The latter are to be organized and maintained either by representative associations of shipowners and seamen jointly under the control of a central authority, or by the Government itself. Committees are to be set up, composed of an equal number of employers' and workers' members, to advise upon the operation of these offices. Certain guarantees are included to protect all parties concerned and to extend the use of available employment facilities to the seafarers of other ratifying States on an equal basis. Each country which ratifies the Convention undertakes to supply to the International Labour Office all available information, statistical or otherwise, concerning unemployed seamen and the operation of seamen's employment exchanges.

Ratified by Australia 3rd August, 1925.

No. 10—*Minimum Age* (*Agriculture*), 1921.—The main purpose of the provisions of this Convention is to prohibit the employment of children under 14 years of age in agriculture during school hours and outside school hours on any but light work which is not detrimental either to their health or to their attendance at school. The Convention further stipulates that the total annual period of school attendance shall not be less than eight months.

Ratified by Australia 24th December, 1957.

No. 11—*Right of Association* (*Agriculture*), 1921.—This Convention provides that " each Member of the International Labour Organization which ratifies this Convention undertakes to secure to all those engaged in agriculture the same rights of association and combination as to industrial workers, and to repeal any statutory or other provisions restricting such rights in the case of those engaged in agriculture ".

Ratified by Australia 24th December, 1957.

No. 15—*Minimum Age* (*Trimmers and Stokers*), 1921.—The purpose of this Convention is to fix at 18 years the minimum age for the admission of young persons to employment on vessels as trimmers or stokers. The term " vessel " includes all ships and boats engaged in maritime navigation except ships of war. The age provision of the Convention does not apply to the work of young persons on school or training ships when this is approved and supervised by the public authority; to their employment on other than steam ships; and to persons of not less than 16 years of age who, if physically fit, may be employed as trimmers and stokers in vessels in the coastal trades of India and Japan, subject to regulations made after consultation with the employers' and workers' organizations concerned. If only trimmers or stokers of between 16 and 18 years of age are available for employment in a given port, then two persons must be employed to fill each vacancy. The master of every vessel is required to keep a register of all persons under the age of 18 years employed on board, or to enter their names in the articles of agreement. The latter must also contain a brief summary of the provisions of the Convention.

Ratified by Australia 28th June, 1935. (This ratification does not apply to intra-state shipping.)

No. 16—*Medical Examination of Young Persons* (*Sea*), 1921.—The purpose of this Convention is to ensure that the employment of young persons of less than 18 years of age on any vessel, other than vessels in which only members of the same family are employed, is conditional on the production of a medical certificate attesting fitness for the work, which is valid for a maximum period of 12 months. In urgent cases, young persons are permitted to embark without a certificate but they must undergo a medical examination at the vessel's first port of call.

Ratified by Australia 28th June, 1935. (This ratification does not apply to intra-state shipping.)

No. 21—*Inspection of Emigrants*, 1926.—This Convention aims at securing that the official inspection carried out for the protection of emigrants on board ship shall be undertaken by not more than one Government at a time, and preferably by the Government of the country whose flag the vessel flies. The Convention specifies, furthermore, what shall be the duties of this single inspection service, and stipulates that the inspectors shall not in any case be directly or indirectly connected with the shipowner or shipping company.

Ratified by Australia 18th April, 1931.

No. 22—*Seamen's Articles of Agreement*, 1926.—The purpose of this Convention is to ensure that articles of agreement be signed, under adequate supervision by the competent national authority, by the shipowner or his representative and the seafarer. The agreement, which may be for a definite period or for a single voyage or, if national law permits, for an indefinite period, must contain certain specified particulars and state clearly the respective rights and obligations of both parties; if a crew list is required to be carried on board, the agreement must be either recorded therein or appended thereto, and appropriate measures must be taken to enable clear information to be obtained on board as to the conditions of employment. The Convention also lays down the conditions under which an agreement may be terminated by either party, and stipulates that every seafarer must be given a document drawn up in conformity with national law containing a record of his employment on board but making no reference to the quality of his work or to his wages.

Ratified by Australia 1st April, 1935.

No. 26—*Minimum Wage-Fixing Machinery*, 1928.—This Convention provides that any country which ratifies it shall undertake to create or maintain machinery whereby minimum rates of wages can be fixed for workers employed in certain of the trades or parts of trades in which no arrangements exist for the effective regulation of wages by collective agreement or otherwise and wages are exceptionally low.

Ratified by Australia 9th March, 1931.

No. 27—*Marking of Weight* (*Packages Transported by Vessels*), 1929.—The purpose of this Convention is to ensure that any package or object of one thousand kilograms (one metric ton) or more gross weight consigned within the territory of any Member which ratifies the Convention for transport by sea or inland waterway shall have had its gross weight plainly and durably marked upon it on the outside before it is loaded on a ship or vessel.

Ratified by Australia 9th March, 1931. (This ratification has been extended to the Territories of Papua and New Guinea, Nauru and Norfolk Island.)

No. 29—*Forced Labour*, 1930.—This Convention provides that the countries which ratify it shall undertake to suppress the use of forced or compulsory labour in all its forms within the shortest possible period. With a view to this complete suppression, recourse to forced or compulsory labour may be had, during the transitional period, for public purposes only and as an exceptional measure, subject to the conditions and guarantees laid down in the Convention. The Convention defines " forced or compulsory labour " as " all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily ". The Convention provides, furthermore, that forced or compulsory labour shall not include certain specified activities relating to civic, community and military obligations.

The Convention also lays down that the competent authority shall not impose or permit the imposition of forced or compulsory labour for the benefit of private individuals, companies or associations.

Ratified by Australia 2nd January, 1932. (This ratification has been extended to the Territories of Papua and New Guinea, Nauru and Norfolk Island.)

No. 45—*Underground Work* (*Women*), 1935.—The purpose of this Convention is to prohibit the employment of a female, whatever her age, on underground work in any undertaking, whether public or private, for the

extraction of any substance from under the surface of the earth. National laws or regulations may, however, exempt from the above prohibition (*a*) females holding positions of management who do not perform manual work; (*b*) females employed in health and welfare services; (*c*) females who, in the course of their studies, spend a period of training in the underground parts of a mine; and (*d*) any other females who may occasionally have to enter the underground parts of a mine for the purpose of a non-manual occupation.

Ratified by Australia 7th October, 1953. (This ratification has been extended to the Territory of Papua and New Guinea.)

No. 57—*Hours of Work and Manning* (*Sea*), 1936.—This Convention has not yet received the required number of ratifications for entry into force. It regulates, apart from certain specified exceptions, the hours of work on board vessels which are employed in the transport of cargo or passengers for the purpose of trade and engaged on international voyages. The prescribed limits on hours to be worked vary according to the classification of the persons concerned, the size of the vessel, etc., but, in general, the limits do not exceed eight hours in the day. All time worked in excess of the limits of hours prescribed or permitted in the Convention is to be regarded as overtime for which compensation is to be paid. Consistent working of overtime is precluded. No person under the age of 16 is to work at night. The Convention also provides that every vessel of over 700 tons shall be sufficiently and efficiently manned for the purposes of safety of life at sea and making possible the application of the rules relating to hours set forth in the Convention, and to this end sets forth minimum requirements as to manning. This Convention has been revised by Conventions Nos. 76 (1946), 93 (1949), and 109 (1958), of which Australia has ratified Nos. 76 and 93—*see* below.

Ratified by Australia 24th September, 1938.

No. 63—*Statistics of Wages and Hours of Work*, 1938.—This Convention requires ratifying countries to undertake to compile statistics and publish and communicate to the I.L.O. certain data relating to wages and hours of work. Part II. of the Convention deals with statistics of average earnings and of hours actually worked in mining and manufacturing industries; Part III. relates to statistics of time rates of wages and of normal hours of work in mining and manufacturing industries; Part IV. relates to statistics of wages and hours of work in agriculture. Any country which ratifies the Convention may exclude from its acceptance of the Convention any one of these Parts, or Parts II. and IV., or Parts III. and IV.

Ratified by Australia 5th September, 1939. (Australia has excluded Part II. from its acceptance of the Convention.)

No. 76—*Wages, Hours of Work and Manning* (*Sea*), 1946.—This Convention, which has been ratified by Australia alone, and has not yet received the required number of ratifications for entry into force, is a complete revision of Convention No. 57—Hours of Work and Manning (Sea)—*see* above. It provides, subject to certain adjustments, that the basic pay or wages for a calendar month of service of an able seaman employed in a vessel to which the Convention applies shall not be less than £16 sterling or $64 U.S. or the equivalent thereof in other currency. The Convention also revises the provisions of Convention No. 57 with regard to hours of work and manning in order to make them more flexible. This Convention has been revised by Conventions Nos. 93 (1949) and 109 (1958). Australia has ratified No. 93—*see* below.

Ratified by Australia 25th January, 1949. (This ratification has been extended to the Territories of Papua and New Guinea, Nauru and Norfolk Island.)

No. 80—*Final Articles Revision*, 1946.—This Convention provides for the partial revision of the Conventions adopted by the General Conference of the I.L.O. at its first 28 Sessions for the purpose of making provision for the future discharge of certain chancery functions entrusted by the said Conventions to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations and introducing therein certain further amendments consequential upon the dissolution of the League of Nations and the amendment of the Constitution of the I.L.O.

Ratified by Australia 25th January, 1949. (This ratification has been extended to the Territories of Papua and New Guinea, Nauru and Norfolk Island.)

No. 85—*Labour Inspectorates* (*Non-Metropolitan Territories*), 1947.—This Convention provides that labour inspection services consisting of suitably trained inspectors shall be maintained in non-metropolitan territories. It also provides that workers and their representatives shall be afforded every facility for communicating freely with the inspectors, that inspectors shall be required to inspect conditions of employment at frequent intervals and that inspectors shall be authorized by law to exercise certain specified powers. Provision is made for inspectors to be prohibited from having an interest in the undertakings under their supervision, for the protection of manufacturing or commercial secrets or working processes, and for the inspectors to treat as absolutely confidential the source of any complaint of defect or breach of legal provisions.

Ratified by Australia 30th September, 1954. (In ratifying this Convention, the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia declared that it would apply the Convention to the Territory of Papua and New Guinea subject to certain modifications. The Government also declared that the Convention was inapplicable in respect of Norfolk Island and that it reserved its decision in respect of the application of the Convention to the Territory of Nauru.)

No. 88—*Employment Service*, 1948.—This Convention deals with the maintenance of a free public employment service consisting of a national system of local and, where appropriate, regional employment offices under the direction of a national authority. The Convention provides for appropriate review and revision of the system and for the co-operation of representatives of employers and workers in the organization and operation of the employment service and in the development of employment service policy. It also sets out measures which may be undertaken by the service to ensure effective recruitment and placement of workers.

Ratified by Australia 24th December, 1949.

No. 93—*Wages, Hours of Work and Manning* (*Sea*)—*Revised*, 1949.—This Convention has not yet received the required number of ratifications for entry into force. It is a partial revision of Convention No. 76—Wages, Hours of Work and Manning (Sea) (*see* above), provisions of which it revises largely in order to make them more flexible.

Ratified by Australia 3rd March, 1954. (This Convention has been revised by Convention No. 109—Wages, Hours of Work and Manning (Sea)—Revised, 1958, which has not been ratified by Australia.)

APPENDIX.

SECTION I.

SYDNEY: AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES(a) OF FOOD AND GROCERY ITEMS DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR, 1958.

Item.	Unit.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average, 1958.
Groceries, etc.—		d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Bread(b) ..	2 lb.	17.30	17.30	17.30	17.30	17.30	17.30	16.30	16.30	16.30	16.30	16.30	15.80	16.76
Flour, plain ..	,,	19.15	19.35	19.35	19.35	19.40	19.40	18.60	18.65	18.65	18.75	18.75	18.15	18.96
,, self-raising ..	,,	25.70	25.50	25.50	25.25	24.60	24.50	23.65	23.65	23.45	23.35	23.35	22.55	24.25
Tea	lb.	77.25	77.25	77.70	77.75	79.45	80.65	80.65	80.65	80.65	80.65	78.70	78.70	79.17
Sugar	,,	10.10	10.10	10.10	10.10	10.10	10.10	10.10	10.10	10.10	10.10	10.10	10.10	10.10
Rice	,,	11.94	11.94	11.94	11.94	11.94	11.94	11.94	11.94	11.94	11.94	11.88	11.88	11.93
Tapioca, seed ..	,,	18.25	19.06	17.17	17.17	16.89	16.89	16.89	16.89	16.89	16.89	16.89	16.89	17.23
Jam, plum ..	1½ lb.	38.40	38.10	38.10	38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00	38.05
Golden Syrup ..	2 lb.	20.90	20.95	20.95	20.95	21.05	21.05	21.05	21.05	21.05	21.05	21.05	21.05	21.01
Oats, flaked ..	lb.	11.71	12.07	12.15	12.15	12.06	12.04	12.04	12.00	12.00	11.83	11.83	11.83	11.98
Raisins, seeded ..	,,	32.00	32.38	32.38	32.38	32.56	32.56	32.69	32.69	32.69	32.69	32.69	32.29	32.50
Currants	,,	27.00	27.00	27.00	27.30	27.20	27.20	27.20	27.60	28.00	27.83	27.83	27.83	27.42
Apricots, dried ..	,,	66.00	66.00	66.00	73.50	74.10	74.10	74.10	74.10	74.10	74.10	80.63	80.63	73.11
Peaches, canned ..	29 oz.	49.70	49.90	49.50	48.65	47.65	47.45	47.45	46.85	47.05	47.05	47.05	47.05	47.95
Pears, canned ..	,,	48.30	48.40	48.40	47.05	45.60	45.40	44.55	44.25	44.45	44.45	44.45	44.45	45.81
Potatoes	7 lb.	37.20	38.30	36.13	36.13	33.73	34.05	33.60	34.70	33.03	46.09	35.75	37.58	36.36
Onions, brown ..	lb.	6.60	7.00	6.90	6.85	7.20	7.45	6.50	6.20	6.30	6.40	6.20	7.70	6.78
Soap	,,	18.67	18.73	18.73	18.73	18.67	18.67	18.67	18.67	18.67	18.67	19.24	19.34	18.79
Kerosene	quart	9.23	9.15	9.15	9.15	9.04	9.04	9.04	9.04	9.11	9.21	9.21	9.21	9.13
Dairy Produce—														
Butter, factory ..	lb.	53.85	53.85	53.85	53.50	53.65	53.65	55.45	55.65	55.65	55.65	55.65	55.65	54.67
Cheese, mild ..	,,	41.40	41.40	41.40	41.40	41.40	41.40	42.17	42.17	42.17	42.17	42.17	42.17	41.79
Eggs, new laid ..	doz.	72.00	78.00	78.00	78.00	78.00	78.00	78.00	66.00	59.50	66.00	72.00	72.00	72.96
Bacon, rashers ..	lb.	83.43	83.00	83.00	83.00	82.64	81.57	81.57	81.57	80.43	80.43	79.71	79.71	81.67
Milk, condensed ..	14 oz. tin	23.60	23.60	23.60	23.60	23.40	24.25	24.45	24.65	24.65	24.65	24.65	24.65	24.15
,, fresh, bottled(b)	quart	23.00	23.00	23.00	23.00	23.00	23.00	23.00	23.00	23.00	23.00	23.00	23.00	23.00
Meat—		March Quarter, 1958.			June Quarter, 1958.			September Quarter, 1958.			December Quarter, 1958.			
Beef, sirloin ..	lb.	48.85			48.00			48.33			48.92			48.53
,, rib (without bone) ..	,,	39.53			38.10			36.50			37.73			37.97
,, steak, rump ..	,,	63.53			62.77			62.37			64.00			63.17
,, ,, chuck ..	,,	32.47			31.83			32.30			32.77			32.34
,, sausages ..	,,	23.00			23.20			23.30			23.43			23.23
,, (corned) silverside	,,	38.47			37.33			36.47			38.20			37.62
,, ,, brisket	,,	26.70			24.10			24.17			26.07			25.26
Mutton, leg ..	,,	24.50			23.60			22.47			22.33			23.23
,, forequarter	,,	16.04			15.85			15.30			15.37			15.64
,, loin ..	,,	25.07			24.57			24.03			24.10			24.44
,, chops, loin	,,	25.03			24.57			24.00			23.70			24.33
,, ,, leg	,,	26.43			25.97			25.33			25.10			25.71
Pork, leg	,,	58.67			56.13			56.10			58.43			57.33
,, loin ..	,,	57.38			55.73			56.43			58.00			56.89
,, chops ..	,,	57.52			55.27			56.03			57.07			56.47

(a) In some cases the averages shown are price relatives. (b) Delivered.

MELBOURNE: AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES(*a*) OF FOOD AND GROCERY ITEMS DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR, 1958.

Item.	Unit.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average, 1958.
Groceries, etc.—		*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*
Bread(*b*) ..	2 lb.	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.50	16.04
Flour, plain ..	,,	11.72	11.69	11.69	11.69	11.69	11.69	11.79	11.79	11.79	12.25	12.25	12.25	11.86
,, self-raising ..	,,	20.45	20.45	20.45	20.45	20.45	20.45	20.45	20.45	20.45	20.45	20.45	20.65	20.47
Tea	lb.	79.40	79.20	79.00	78.75	78.75	78.75	78.70	81.40	81.40	80.65	79.45	79.25	79.56
Sugar	,,	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Rice	,,	11.90	11.90	11.90	11.80	11.80	11.80	11.80	11.80	11.80	11.80	11.80	11.80	11.83
Tapioca, seed ..	,,	16.64	16.43	16.25	15.83	15.67	15.67	14.56	14.56	13.50	13.56	13.56	13.56	14.98
Jam, plum ..	1½ lb.	31.55	31.67	31.67	31.33	31.33	31.22	31.22	31.22	31.22	31.22	30.69	30.69	31.25
Golden Syrup ..	2 lb.	20.75	20.75	20.75	20.75	20.75	20.75	20.75	20.75	20.75	20.55	20.50	20.55	20.70
Oats, flaked ..	lb.	8.81	9.46	10.06	9.88	9.94	10.04	10.43	10.43	10.43	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.03
Raisins, seeded ..	,,	30.83	31.00	31.00	30.83	31.28	31.50	31.72	31.72	31.72	30.89	30.89	30.89	31.19
Currants	,,	25.88	26.25	26.25	26.33	26.75	26.75	26.75	26.75	26.75	26.75	27.25	26.50	26.58
Apricots, dried ..	,,	63.00	63.00	70.00	69.25	69.25	69.25	69.00	69.00	69.00	69.00	69.00	69.00	68.15
Peaches, canned ..	29 oz.	45.10	45.05	45.15	44.65	43.80	43.35	43.05	43.05	43.05	41.45	41.30	41.00	43.33
Pears, canned ..	,,	40.90	40.80	40.80	40.50	39.55	38.95	38.65	38.65	38.65	37.10	36.90	36.50	39.00
Potatoes	7 lb.	33.88	32.88	31.30	28.79	28.57	28.57	27.57	28.07	27.57	34.38	36.75	41.11	31.62
Onions, brown ..	lb.	8.33	7.33	7.54	7.67	7.87	7.71	7.91	7.13	7.00	6.67	6.67	6.54	7.36
Soap	,,	19.00	19.00	19.00	18.90	18.90	18.83	18.83	18.83	18.83	18.74	19.24	19.24	18.95
Kerosene	quart	8.85	8.85	8.85	8.85	8.85	8.85	8.80	8.80	8.80	8.81	8.81	8.81	8.83
Dairy Produce—														
Butter, factory ..	lb.	54.55	54.55	54.55	54.20	54.05	54.05	56.10	56.10	56.10	55.75	55.60	55.60	55.10
Cheese, mild ..	,,	40.00	40.25	40.25	40.25	40.25	40.25	41.25	41.25	42.00	40.75	40.75	40.75	40.67
Eggs, new laid ..	doz.	70.00	70.10	74.30	74.30	74.30	73.70	73.70	55.90	49.60	49.60	62.60	69.40	66.46
Bacon, rashers ..	lb.	80.50	80.50	80.50	80.86	80.86	80.86	80.43	80.43	80.43	80.43	80.43	80.43	80.56
Milk, condensed ..	14 oz. tin	23.20	23.20	22.95	22.60	22.60	22.80	23.10	23.10	23.25	22.50	22.50	22.50	22.86
,, fresh, bottled(*b*)	quart	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50
Meat—		March Quarter, 1958.			June Quarter, 1958.			September Quarter, 1958.			December Quarter, 1958.			
Beef, sirloin ..	lb.	44.00			44.83			45.23			45.70			44.94
,, rib (without bone) ..	,,	42.97			43.13			42.77			43.93			43.20
,, steak, rump ..	,,	63.37			63.47			65.17			67.23			64.81
,, ,, chuck ..	,,	33.90			34.23			35.00			35.13			34.57
,, sausages ..	,,	23.09			23.13			23.17			23.13			23.13
,, (corned) silver-side	,,	42.90			42.33			42.97			44.47			43.17
,, ,, brisket ..	,,	30.07			28.40			28.10			30.33			29.23
Mutton, leg ..	,,	25.63			26.75			26.46			25.46			26.08
,, forequarter	,,	16.29			16.62			17.10			17.19			16.80
,, loin ..	,,	25.00			25.67			25.17			25.17			25.25
,, chops, loin	,,	24.46			25.04			25.21			25.71			25.11
,, ,, leg	,,	28.59			29.54			28.88			29.13			29.04
Pork, leg	,,	56.53			54.20			56.87			57.33			56.23
,, loin ..	,,	57.63			57.70			59.40			59.57			58.58
,, chops ..	,,	57.43			57.30			59.63			59.27			58.41

(*a*) In some cases the averages shown are price relatives. (*b*) Delivered.

SECTION I.—*continued.*

BRISBANE: AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES(*a*) OF FOOD AND GROCERY ITEMS DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR, 1958.

Item.	Unit.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average, 1958.
Groceries, etc.—		*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*
Bread(*b*)	2 lb.	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.33
Flour, plain ..	,,	11.20	11.55	11.55	11.55	11.55	11.55	11.55	11.55	11.50	11.45	11.45	11.45	11.49
,, self-raising ..	,,	20.05	20.15	20.20	20.20	20.20	20.20	20.20	20.10	19.90	19.95	19.95	19.90	20.08
Tea	lb.	74.20	74.30	74.70	74.70	74.70	74.70	77.00	77.75	77.70	77.70	77.70	77.70	76.07
Sugar	,,	9.95	9.93	9.93	9.93	9.93	9.93	9.93	9.93	9.93	9.93	9.93	9.93	9.93
Rice	,,	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
Tapioca, seed ..	,,	14.50	13.86	14.38	14.38	14.38	14.25	14.38	14.38	14.38	14.63	14.63	14.63	14.40
Jam, plum ..	1½ lb.	33.60	33.80	33.80	33.80	33.80	34.10	34.00	34.00	34.00	34.00	34.00	33.95	33.90
Golden Syrup ..	2 lb.	18.95	18.95	18.95	18.95	18.95	18.95	18.95	18.95	18.95	18.95	18.95	18.95	18.95
Oats, flaked ..	lb.	11.79	12.10	12.43	12.43	12.43	12.38	12.47	12.47	12.49	12.49	12.49	12.49	12.37
Raisins, seeded ..	,,	28.65	28.65	28.70	29.00	29.20	29.25	29.78	29.75	29.90	30.44	30.44	30.44	29.52
Currants	,,	24.26	24.26	24.34	24.46	24.46	25.12	25.36	25.38	25.55	25.77	25.77	25.77	25.04
Apricots, dried ..	,,	60.00	59.00	63.83	63.83	63.83	63.83	62.50	62.50	62.50	62.50	62.50	62.50	62.44
Peaches, canned ..	29 oz.	46.05	45.90	45.90	45.90	45.90	45.30	44.95	44.65	44.80	44.70	44.70	44.15	45.24
Pears, canned ..	,,	43.35	43.25	43.25	42.95	42.95	42.30	42.10	42.10	41.55	41.65	41.65	41.70	42.40
Potatoes	7 lb.	37.80	42.00	38.85	36.60	27.20	31.85	36.75	35.70	43.05	54.95	29.85	37.45	37.67
Onions, brown ..	lb.	4.85	5.10	6.15	6.30	6.80	7.30	6.40	5.40	5.30	5.20	5.05	6.50	5.86
Soap	,,	18.37	18.43	18.43	18.50	18.50	18.60	18.60	18.60	18.60	18.60	18.60	18.60	18.54
Kerosene	quart	8.57	8.71	8.77	8.77	8.77	8.77	8.81	8.81	8.81	8.81	8.81	8.81	8.77
Dairy Produce—														
Butter, factory ..	lb.	54.00	54.00	54.00	53.90	53.90	53.90	55.85	55.85	55.85	55.85	55.85	55.85	54.90
Cheese, mild ..	,,	34.89	34.89	34.89	34.89	34.89	34.89	35.89	35.89	35.89	35.89	35.89	36.11	35.41
Eggs, new laid ..	doz.	67.60	71.83	71.83	74.61	74.65	74.65	74.65	55.70	56.00	63.80	63.80	71.90	68.42
Bacon, rashers ..	lb.	76.44	74.21	74.21	74.21	74.21	74.36	72.79	72.79	72.79	73.33	74.17	74.17	73.97
Milk, condensed ..	14 oz. tin	23.90	23.90	23.90	23.90	23.90	23.90	24.25	24.45	24.50	24.45	24.40	24.40	24.15
,, fresh, bottled(*b*)	quart	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00
Meat—		March Quarter, 1958.			June Quarter, 1958.			September Quarter, 1958.			December Quarter, 1958.			
Beef, sirloin ..	lb.		37.20			38.33			39.90			42.07		39.38
,, rib (without bone) ..	,,		31.33			31.60			32.83			35.10		32.72
,, steak, rump ..	,,		46.00			47.23			48.80			51.23		48.32
,, ,, chuck ..	,,		24.00			24.57			26.00			28.80		25.84
,, sausages ..	,,		21.00			21.50			22.00			24.00		22.13
,, (corned) silverside	,,		34.00			34.97			36.53			39.03		36.13
,, ,, brisket	,,		22.80			23.47			25.10			27.57		24.74
Mutton, leg ..	,,		27.10			26.77			26.23			26.57		26.67
,, forequarter	,,		13.60			13.07			12.63			12.83		13.03
,, loin ..	,,		26.70			26.43			26.10			25.90		26.28
,, chops, loin	,,		26.70			26.77			26.70			26.40		26.64
,, ,, leg	,,		26.70			26.70			26.43			26.50		26.58
Pork, leg	,,		51.80			50.97			51.90			53.00		51.92
,, loin ..	,,		50.50			49.93			50.70			51.90		50.76
,, chops ..	,,		50.60			49.57			50.40			51.57		50.54

(*a*) In some cases the averages shown are price relatives. (*b*) Delivered.

ADELAIDE: AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES(*a*) OF FOOD AND GROCERY ITEMS DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR, 1958.

Item.	Unit.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average, 1958.
		d.	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*
Groceries, etc.—														
Bread(*b*)	2 lb.	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.38
Flour, plain ..	,,	11.45	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50
,, self-raising ..	,,	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.20	17.80	17.95	17.16
Tea	lb.	78.25	78.25	78.25	78.25	78.25	78.25	78.25	78.40	78.40	78.40	78.40	78.40	78.31
Sugar	,,	9.98	9.98	9.98	9.98	9.98	9.98	9.98	9.98	9 98	9.98	9.98	9.98	9.98
Rice	,,	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12 00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
Tapioca, seed ..	,,	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50
Jam, plum ..	1½ lb.	32.50	32.50	32.50	32.50	32.50	32.50	32.61	32.61	32.61	32.61	32.61	32.61	32.56
Golden Syrup ..	2 lb.	20.05	20.05	20.05	20.05	20.05	20.05	20.05	20.05	20.05	20.05	20.05	20.05	20.05
Oats, flaked ..	lb.	9.17	10.22	10.33	10.33	10.33	10.37	10.33	10.33	10.33	10.33	10.33	10.33	10.23
Raisins, seeded ..	,,	31.45	31.45	31.45	31.45	31.45	31.72	32.10	32.61	33.50	33.50	33.50	33.50	32.31
Currants	,,	27.00	27.00	27.00	27.00	27.00	27.00	28.44	28.57	28.50	28.50	28.50	28.50	27.75
Apricots, dried ..	,,	61.50	61.50	63.25	68.50	68.50	68.57	68.57	69.13	69.13	69.13	69.13	69.13	67.17
Peaches, canned ..	29 oz.	47.56	47.22	47.22	47.00	46.89	46.89	46.89	46.89	46.11	46.11	45.56	45.56	46.66
Pears, canned ..	,,	44.80	44.80	44.80	44.35	43.55	43.55	43.05	43.05	41.70	41.20	41.10	40.60	43.05
Potatoes	7 lb.	29.80	29.80	23.60	21.40	22.10	22.40	23.00	23.00	23.00	35.20	28.40	37.70	26.62
Onions, brown ..	lb.	7.88	7.50	7.50	7.38	7.38	7.38	7.38	6.88	6.25	6.00	7.25	7.25	7.17
Soap	,,	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00
Kerosene	quart	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.42	8.41	8.41	8.41	8.41	8.42	8.46
Dairy Produce—														
Butter, factory ..	lb.	54.45	54.45	54.45	54.00	53.70	53.70	55.85	55.85	55.85	55.65	55.65	55.65	54.94
Cheese, mild ..	,,	35.06	35.06	35.06	35.06	35.06	35.06	35.50	36.00	36.00	36.00	36.00	36.00	35.49
Eggs, new laid ..	doz.	51.80	61.15	64.50	66.61	66.50	66.40	60.30	57.33	52.33	51.33	54.44	59.44	59.34
Bacon, rashers ..	lb.	67.00	65.00	65.00	65.00	65.00	65.00	65.00	65.00	65.06	67.13	67.69	67.94	65.82
Milk, condensed ..	14 oz. tin	24.40	24.40	24.40	24.40	24.40	25.00	25.50	25.50	25.50	25.50	25.50	25.50	25.00
,, fresh, loose(*b*)	quart	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50
,, ,, bottled(*b*)	,,	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00
Meat—		March Quarter, 1958.			June Quarter, 1958.			September Q uarter, 1958.			December Quarter, 1958.			
Beef, sirloin ..	lb.	30.93			33.57			37.20			38.10			34.95
,, . rib (without bone) ..	,,	34.07			36.83			40.47			41.10			38.12
,, steak, rump ..	,,	52.77			55.60			59.23			60.30			56.98
,, ,, chuck ..	,,	29.77			31.90			35.07			35.10			32.96
,, sausages ..	,,	18.59			20.30			21.44			21.22			20.39
,, (corned) silver-side	,,	38.73			40.53			42.73			43.67			41.42
,, ,, brisket	,,	28.53			30.00			31.60			31.57			30.43
Mutton, leg ..	,,	16.93			21.37			23.73			25.73			21.94
,, forequarter	,,	9.07			11.17			12.17			12.80			11.30
,, loin ..	,,	16.97			21.17			23.30			24.63			21.52
,, chops, loin	,,	17.37			21.67			23.67			24.93			21.91
,, ,, leg	,,	18.10			21.97			23.90			25.43			22.35
Pork, leg	,,	40.27			42.13			44.53			52.47			44.85
,, loin ..	,,	40.70			42.87			45.43			52.87			45.47
,, chops ..	,,	40.77			42.87			45.47			53.17			45.57

(*a*) In some cases the averages shown are price relatives. (*b*) Delivered.

SECTION I.—*continued.*

PERTH: AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES(*a*) OF FOOD AND GROCERY ITEMS DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR, 1958.

Item.	Unit.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average, 1958.
		d.	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*
Groceries, etc.—														
Bread(*b*)	2 lb.	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00
Flour, plain ..	,,	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	13 75	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75
,, self-raising ..	,,	20 10	20.25	20.35	20.35	20.45	20.55	20.55	20.55	20.50	20.50	20.50	20.50	20.43
Tea	lb	78.50	77.55	78.05	78.05	78.05	78.05	78.05	78.40	80.20	80.50	77.05	77.05	78.29
Sugar	,,	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Rice	,,	11.85	11.85	11.85	11.85	11.85	11.85	11.85	11.85	11.85	11.85	11.85	11.83	11.85
Tapioca, seed ..	,,	17.44	18.31	18.31	18.31	16.83	16.83	16.83	16.00	16.00	16.00	15.50	15.00	16.78
Jam, plum ..	1½ lb.	36.70	36.40	36.40	36.40	36.40	36.30	36.30	36.60	36.75	36.75	36.75	36.35	36.51
Golden Syrup ..	2 lb.	21.25	21.25	21.25	21.25	21.25	20.50	21.10	21.10	21.10	21.10	21.10	21.10	21.11
Oats, flaked ..	lb.	10.05	10.10	10.27	12.09	12.47	12.47	12.47	12.47	12.47	12.32	12.22	12.22	11.80
Raisins, seeded ..	,,	30.60	30.60	31.50	30.88	30.88	30.88	30.88	30.88	30.88	32.00	32.00	32.50	31.21
Currants	,,	25.15	24.65	24.95	24.83	25.50	26.17	26.90	26.90	27.20	26.60	26.80	26.40	26.00
Apricots, dried ..	,,	62.25	62.25	62.25	67.20	69.20	69.25	71.50	71.00	70.00	70.50	70.50	70.50	68.03
Peaches, canned ..	29 oz.	48.45	49.35	48.05	47.75	47.35	47.35	47.06	47.35	47.35	42.44	44.11	44.35	46.75
Pears, canned ..	,,	45.00	44.85	44.05	44.25	43.85	43.35	43.85	43.85	43.35	41.39	40.55	40.40	43.23
Potatoes	7 lb.	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	39.14	39.14	35.69
Onions, brown ..	lb.	7.06	7.44	6.38	7.06	7.19	8.25	8.31	8.19	7.94	7.81	7.94	7.81	7.62
Soap	,,	19.63	19.80	19.80	19.70	19.70	19.70	19.70	19.70	19.70	19.70	19.70	19.70	19.71
Kerosene	quart	13.41	13.41	13.41	13.41	13.41	13.41	13.36	13.36	13.36	13.34	13.34	13.34	13.38
Dairy Produce—														
Butter, factory ..	lb.	53.40	53.40	53.40	53.40	53.40	53.40	55.20	55.20	54.80	54.80	54.80	54.80	54.17
Cheese, mild ..	,,	44.93	44.93	44.93	44.93	44.93	44.93	46.70	47.25	47.17	47.30	47.30	47.30	46.05
Eggs, new laid ..	doz.	58.85	59.45	62.57	62.57	65.48	65.50	66.65	59.84	59.84	61.18	61.18	61.18	62.02
Bacon, rashers ..	lb.	71.50	71.50	72.20	71.50	71.50	71.50	70.17	70.17	70.17	70.17	70.17	70.17	70.89
Milk, condensed ..	14 oz. tin	21.70	21.70	22.00	22.00	22.00	21.65	22.45	22.65	22.85	23.00	23.00	23.00	22.33
,, fresh, bottled(*b*)	quart	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00
Meat—		March Quarter, 1958.			June Quarter, 1958.			September Quarter, 1958.			December Quarter, 1958.			
Beef, sirloin ..	lb.	41.29			42.48			42.85			42.59			42.30
,, rib (without bone) ..	,,	41.40			42.27			43.00			42.23			42.23
,, steak, rump ..	,,	58.90			59.63			59.57			59.03			59.28
,, ,, chuck ..	,,	36.03			36.63			36.87			36.17			36.43
,, sausages ..	,,	23.44			23.07			23.22			22.22			22.99
,, (corned) silverside	,,	40.97			41.03			40.50			40.77			40.82
,, ,, brisket	,,	29.37			29.23			29.33			29.27			29.30
Mutton, leg ..	,,	26.83			28.83			27.90			24.87			27.11
,, forequarter	,,	15.60			17.43			16.73			15.13			16.22
,, loin ..	,,	23.47			25.27			25.93			23.47			24.54
,, chops, loin	,,	23.60			25.33			26.00			23.47			24.60
,, ,, leg	,,	23.83			25.43			26.00			23.47			24.68
Pork, leg	,,	48.87			48.80			49.13			51.53			49.58
,, loin ..	,,	49.07			48.50			49.13			51.17			49.47
,, chops ..	,,	49.10			48.50			49.13			51.17			49.48

(*a*) In some cases the averages shown are price relatives. (*b*) Delivered.

HOBART: AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES(*a*) OF FOOD AND GROCERY ITEMS DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR, 1958.

Item.	Unit.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average, 1958.
Groceries, etc.—		*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*
Bread(*b*)	2 lb.	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00
Flour, plain ..	,,	12.35	12.55	12.65	12.80	12.90	12.90	12.90	12.90	12.90	12.80	12.80	12.90	12.78
,, self-raising ..	,,	21.90	21.90	21.95	21.95	21.95	21.95	21.95	21.95	21.95	21.95	21.95	22.06	21.95
Tea	lb.	83.25	83.25	83.25	83.25	83.25	83.25	83.25	86.20	86.20	85.35	83.50	83.50	83.96
Sugar	,,	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50
Rice	,,	11.95	11.95	11.95	11.95	11.95	11.95	11.95	11.95	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	11.97
Tapioca, seed ..	,,	18.80	19.40	19.40	19.40	17.00	17.00	15.80	15.83	15.83	15.14	15.14	15.14	16.99
Jam, plum ..	1½ lb.	36.25	36.25	36.25	36.25	36.25	36.25	36.20	36.20	36.20	35.95	35.95	35.95	36.16
Golden Syrup ..	2 lb.	22.85	22.85	22.85	22.85	22.85	22.85	22.85	22.85	22.85	22.85	22.85	22.85	22.85
Oats, flaked ..	lb.	11.22	11.50	11.92	12.16	12.15	12.53	12.42	12.42	12.96	12.93	12.93	12.93	12.34
Raisins, seeded. ..	,,	31.95	31.95	31.95	31.95	32.20	32.40	32.40	32.40	33.10	32.50	32.61	32.61	32.34
Currants	,,	27.80	27.17	27.17	27.17	27.17	27.17	27.17	27.17	27.17	28.50	28.50	28.50	27.56
Apricots, dried ..	,,	64.33	64.33	64.33	64.33	66.50	66.50	66.50	66.50	67.67	67.67	67.67	67.67	66.17
Peaches, canned ..	29 oz.	52.10	52.15	52.15	51.75	51.50	50.65	50.50	50.90	50.90	50.40	49.90	49.60	51.04
Pears, canned ..	,,	50.75	51.25	51.30	51.30	50.75	50.55	50.55	50.55	50.40	50.55	50.80	50.80	50.80
Potatoes	7 lb.	42.00	44.33	42.78	33.68	31.19	30.96	28.78	28.00	26.83	33.43	35.70	36.17	34.49
Onions, brown ..	lb.	8.63	9.00	8.75	8.71	8.88	9.00	8.88	8.88	8.56	8.50	8.50	8.25	8.71
Soap	,,	18.93	18.90	18.90	18.90	18.90	18.90	18.87	18.87	18.87	18.83	19.13	19.20	18.93
Kerosene	quart	13.64	13.67	13.67	13.67	13.42	13.42	13.42	13.42	13.42	13.42	13.42	13.42	13.50
Dairy Produce—														
Butter, factory ..	lb.	53.45	53.00	53.00	53.00	53.00	53.00	55.40	55.40	55.40	54.90	54.90	54.90	54.11
Cheese, mild ..	,,	39.67	39.67	39.67	39.67	39.67	39.67	40.55	40.55	40.55	40.55	40.55	40.55	31.78
Eggs, new laid ..	doz.	66.11	71.50	66.88	66.94	75.19	76.88	79.06	69.44	56.80	55.90	56.80	69.10	67.55
Bacon, rashers ..	lb.	76.63	75.50	75.50	75.50	74.44	74.44	74.44	73.63	73.63	73.25	73.25	73.25	74.46
Milk, condensed ..	14 oz. tin	24.35	24.35	24.35	24.30	24.30	25.00	25.20	25.30	25.30	25.10	25.10	25.10	24.81
,, fresh, loose(*b*)	quart	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00
,, ,, bottled(*b*)	,,	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00
Meat—		March Quarter, 1958.			June Quarter, 1958.			September Quarter, 1958.			December Quarter, 1958.			
Beef, sirloin ..	lb.	40.37			40.10			43.43			45.77			42.42
,, rib (without bone) ..	,,	39.10			38.70			41.40			43.63			40.71
,, steak, rump ..	,,	58.33			58.13			61.53			65.57			60.89
,, ,, chuck ..	,,	31.90			31.60			33.93			36.27			33.43
,, sausages ..	,,	24.43			24.10			23.93			23.70			24.04
,, (corned) silver-side	,,	40.97			40.90			42.77			45.17			42.45
,, ,, brisket	,,	28.50			27.80			29.73			32.70			29.68
Mutton, leg ..	,,	29.00			29.00			28.24			28.56			28.70
,, forequarter	,,	14.81			15.57			13.66			14.03			14.52
,, loin ..	,,	21.10			21.14			19.81			20.10			20.54
,, chops, loin	,,	21.72			21.67			20.67			21.05			21.28
,, ,, leg	,,	26.81			26.24			24.38			24.56			25.50
Pork, leg	,,	56.77			55.53			54.90			55.80			55.75
,, loin ..	,,	56.50			55.80			54.63			55.60			55.63
,, chops ..	,,	56.60			55.80			54.63			56.07			55.78

(*a*) In some cases the averages shown are price relatives. (*b*) Delivered.

SECTION II.

AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD IN PRINCIPAL CITIES: AUSTRALIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES, 1958.

(Particulars extracted from Official Publications and Reports. Prices are quoted in the currency of the country concerned.)

Item.	Unit.	AUSTRALIA.(a)								NEW ZEALAND.							
		Sydney.				Melbourne.				Wellington.				Christchurch.			
		Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.
		d.	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*
Bread	2 lb.	17.30	17.30	16.30	16.30	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	8.57	8.57	8.57	8.57	8.57	8.57	8.57	8.57
Flour, plain	,,	19.35	19.40	18.65	18.75	11.69	11.69	11.79	12.25	6.38	6.38	6.38	6.38	5.92	5.92	5.92	5.92
Tea	lb.	77.25	79.45	80.65	78.70	79.20	78.75	81.40	79.45	80.00	80.00	80.00	80.00	76.80	80.00	80.00	80.00
Jam, plum	1¼ lb.	38.10	38.00	38.00	38.00	31.67	31.33	31.22	30.69	c52.99	c54.21	c54.21	c55.22	c53.14	c55.37	c55.37	c56.57
Sugar	lb.	10.10	10.10	10.10	10.10	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	9.38	8.61	8.61	8.61	9.40	8.69	8.69	8.67
Rice	,,	11.94	11.94	11.94	11.88	11.90	11.80	11.80	11.80	10.67	10.67	10.50	10.58	10.10	10.20	10.20	10.40
Oatmeal	,,	12.07	12.06	12.00	11.83	9.46	9.94	10.43	10.30	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
Raisins	,,	32.38	32.56	32.69	32.69	31.00	31.28	31.72	30.89	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Peaches, canned	30-oz. tin	49.90	47.65	46.85	47.05	45.05	43.80	43.05	41.30	50.33	50.33	50.17	50.50	50.90	50.90	50.90	49.70
Potatoes	7 lb.	38.30	33.73	34.70	35.75	32.88	28.57	28.07	36.75	31.71	32.69	35.00	49.00	24.92	22.54	22.05	42.00
Onions	lb.	7.00	7.20	6.20	6.20	7.33	7.87	7.13	6.67	6 63	5.50	5.25	5.25	7.00	4.89	4.33	3.42
Milk	quart	23.00	23.00	23.00	23.00	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.00	9.00	9.50	9.50
Butter	lb.	53.85	53.65	55.65	55.65	54.55	54.05	56.10	55.60	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00
Cheese	,,	41.40	41.40	42.17	42.17	40.25	40.25	41.25	40.75	23.67	23.83	23.83	22.33	24.80	24.80	24.80	23.60
Eggs	dozen	78.00	78.00	66.00	72.00	70.10	74.30	55.90	62.60	68.00	79.00	50.00	63.50	61.00	72.00	45.00	55.00
Bacon	lb.	83.00	82.64	81.57	79.71	80.50	80.86	80.43	80.43	50.17	50.17	50.17	47.00	50.00	50.25	50.25	47.25
		(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)								
Beef, sirloin	,,	48.85	48.00	48.33	48.92	44.00	44.83	45.23	45.70	36.80	39.20	40.00	41.40	32.67	33.67	37.00	39.67
,, rib	,,	39.53	38.10	36.50	37.73	42.97	43.13	42.77	43.93	34.00	38.00	38.40	40.60	30.67	32.33	35.67	36.33
,, steak, rump	,,	63.53	62.77	62.37	64.00	63.37	63.47	65.17	67.23	42.00	45.60	46.60	50.40	38.00	38.67	43.00	44.33
,, sausages	,,	23.00	23.20	23.30	23.43	23.09	23.13	23.17	23.13	17.40	18.20	19.00	19.00	15.00	15.33	17.00	17.00
Mutton, leg	,,	24.50	23.60	22.47	22.33	25.63	26.75	26.46	25.46	32.80	34.40	34.60	33.00	30.67	31.67	30.33	30.33
,, forequarter	,,	16.04	15.85	15.30	15.37	16.29	16.62	17.10	17.19	19.20	19.20	19.60	17.40	18.00	18.00	18.33	18.33
,, chops	,,	25.03	24.57	24.00	23.70	24.46	25.04	25.21	25.71	31.20	31.60	31.40	30.00	30.67	30.67	30.67	30.67
Pork, leg	,,	58.67	56.13	56.10	58.43	56.53	54.20	56.87	57.33	40.00	40.00	40.20	39.20	36.00	36.00	38.00	38.00
,, chops	,,	57.52	55.27	56.03	57.07	57.43	57.30	59.63	59.27	40.80	40.20	40.20	39.60	37.00	37.00	38.00	39.00

(a) In some cases the averages shown are price relatives. (b) Meat prices are averages of the three individual monthly prices in each quarter. (c) Raspberry jam.

AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD IN PRINCIPAL CITIES: AUSTRALIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES, 1958—*continued.*

(Particulars extracted from Official Publications and Reports. Prices are quoted in the currency of the country concerned.)

Item.	Unit.	CANADA.								UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.(*a*)			
		Ottawa.				Montreal.							
		Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.
		cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.
Bread	2 lb.	26.2	27.6	27.6	27.6	27.4	28.8	28.8	28.8	38.2	38.4	38.6	39.2
Flour, plain	,,	15.6	15.8	16.0	16.0	16.0	16.4	16.6	16.4	22.1	22.3	22.0	21.9
Tea	lb.	116.0	114.6	114.8	115.2	118.4	118.4	118.4	119.2	..	..	..	..
Jam(*b*)	1½ lb.	37.5	37.2	37.5	37.2	39.2	39.3	39.0	38.4	..	..	..	..
Sugar	lb.	10.6	10.2	9.5	9.2	10.4	9.7	9.3	9.1	11.1	11.2	11.4	11.4
Rice	,,	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18.1	18.3	18.6	18.5
Oatmeal	,,	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.1
Raisins	,,	26.2	26.4	27.6	30.1	27.0	27.8	28.9	30.7	..	..	..	..
Peaches, canned ..	30-oz. tin	42.4	42.0	41.6	37.8	45.2	45.8	45.2	42.0	..	..	..	..
Potatoes	7 lb.	27.7	35.3	31.4	25.2	26.3	32.9	27.0	25.1	42.9	53.4	41.4	35.3
Onions	lb.	9.3	12.3	12.5	10.2	10.3	13.3	12.4	11.5	9.0	11.3	9.4	9.1
Milk	quart	23.4	23.4	23.4	23.4	23.0	23.0	23.0	23.0	25.7	24.8	25.1	25.5
Butter	lb.	68.6	68.6	68.4	68.6	68.2	68.4	68.1	68.2	74.9	73.6	73.5	74.4
Cheese	,,	69.2	68.2	70.0	70.0	69.0	67.8	69.8	71.4	58.2	58.0	57.8	57.9
Eggs	dozen	49.6	53.4	59.6	65.8	51.9	55.1	60.6	65.0	56.8	56.6	60.9	62.7
Bacon	lb.	89.4	93.8	100.4	90.2	90.8	93.2	98.2	88.2	77.2	80.4	86.4	73.9
Beef, sirloin	,,	91.4	98.0	98.8	99.6	99.1	110.0	106.2	108.6	..	..	..	..
,, rib	,,	84.9	91.4	90.8	91.5	86.0	92.3	91.4	91.5	80.2	82.9	81.7	81.1
,, steak, rump ..	,,	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	*c* 101.0	*c* 105.9	*c* 104.0	*c* 104.9
Pork chops	,,	(d) 75.0	73.8	84.8	74.4	72.1	74.9	78.9	71.6	88.6	91.3	94.6	90.7

(*a*) Average for all towns. (*b*) Strawberry jam. (*c*) Round steak. (*d*) Change of store sample—Not strictly comparable with previous period.

SECTION II.—*continued.*

AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD IN PRINCIPAL CITIES: AUSTRALIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES, 1958—*continued.*

(Particulars extracted from Official Publications and Reports. Prices are quoted in the currency of the country concerned.)

Item.	Unit.	United Kingdom.	Union of South Africa.							
			Capetown.				Witwatersrand.			
		Oct.	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.
		d.	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*
Bread	2 lb.	12.3	9.9	9.9	9.9	(*a*) 11.0	9.8	9.8	9.8	(*a*) 11.0
Flour, plain	,,	14.0	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.3	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.3
Tea	lb.	80.9	93.9	97.2	100.1	98.8	97.6	102.0	103.2	100.7
Jam	1½ lb.	..	(*b*) 20.7	(*b*) 20.8	(*b*) 20.5	(*b*) 20.6	(*b*) 22.7	(*b*) 22.9	(*b*) 23.0	(*b*) 22.5
Sugar	lb.	7.7	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.5	5.0	5.7	5.7
Rice	,,	14.4	..	11.0	11.0	11.0	..	11.1	11.2	11.2
Oatmeal	,,	..	12.4	12.4	12.9	12.9	12.4	12.4	12.8	12.8
Raisins	,,	..	16.9	17.0	17.4	..	20.2	19.1	19.1	..
Peaches, canned	30-oz. tin	..	28.6	29.3	29.4	..	33.5	33.7	33.6	..
Potatoes	7 lb.	29.8	53.2	53.9	57.4	38.5	37.8	53.2	58.1	42.0
Onions	lb.	5.6	5.6	7.7	7.7	5.5	8.5	10.4	10.0	5.8
Milk	quart	16.0	13.0	13.0	13.0	13.0	13.6	13.6	13.6	13.6
Butter	lb.	33.8	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0
Cheese	,,	29.1	33.3	33.4	34.4	34.5	33.3	33.4	34.4	34.5
Eggs	dozen	52.0	40.6	45.7	38.5	33.5	40.3	45.7	35.9	33.4
Bacon	lb.	60.9	47.9	47.9	47.9	50.4	45.5	45.4	45.2	44.8
Beef, sirloin	,,	(*c*) 63.5	32.0	31.0	34.0	30.3	31.8	31.8	32.2	32.4
,, rib	,,	(*c*) 43.0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
,, steak, rump	,,	(*c*) 82.9	44.0	44.0	44.0	39.3	39.1	38.8	39.1	40.7
Mutton, leg	,,	(*c*) 46.1	41.0	39.0	41.0	36.1	39.8	39.0	39.0	37.2
Pork, leg	,,	(*c*) 48.0	33.0	33.0	38.0	34.6	32.3	32.0	32.1	33.3
,, chops	,,	..	37.0	37.0	38.0	36.3	34.8	34.1	34.4	35.6

(*a*) Bread, white, delivered. Not comparable with previous prices. (*b*) Apricot jam. (*c*) Home killed.

SECTION III.

Comparison of Trends of the Interim Retail Price index with Trends of the "C" Series Retail Price Index.—The following table shows the Interim Index for the six capital cities combined, with the year 1952–53 as base = 100, in comparison with the "C" Series Index arithmetically converted to the same base:—

Period.	Six Capital Cities (Weighted Average).		
	"C" Series Index.(*a*)	Interim Index.(*a*)	
		A	B
Year ended June—1953	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
1954	102.8	102.2	102.5
1955	103.7	103.7	103.6
	A B		
1956	107.5 108.8	107.0	108.0
1957	112.2 114.1	113.0	114.3
1958	114.7 114.3	115.7	115.6
Quarter—1952: September	99.0	98.7	98.8
December	99.2	99.4	99.3
1953: March	100.3	100.4	100.4
June	101.4	101.5	101.6
September	102.7	101.9	102.4
December	102.9	101.5	102.2
1954: March	102.9	102.6	102.7
June	102.8	102.7	102.7
September	102.6	102.9	102.7
December	103.2	103.4	103.2
1955: March	103.9	103.8	103.8
June	105.0	104.5	104.7
	A B		
September	105.9 106.6	105.1	105.7
December	106.7 107.7	106.3	107.0
1956: March	107.8 109.0	107.4	108.3
June	109.7 111.8	109.4	110.8
September	111.1 115.6	111.5	114.4
December	111.7 114.2	112.5	114.2
1957: March	112.6 112.8	113.5	113.7
June	113.5 113.8	114.5	114.8
September	114.0 113.8	115.1	115.1
December	114.0 113.5	115.1	114.9
1958: March	115.0 114.7	115.9	115.8
June	115.9 115.3	116.7	116.5
September	116.3 115.7	117.1	116.9
December	117.3 117.0	118.3	118.3

(*a*) The index in column "A" excludes, and that in column "B" includes potatoes and onions.

NOTE.—The figures appearing after the decimal point possess little significance for general statistical purposes. They are inserted to avoid the distortion that would occur in rounding off the figures to the nearest whole number. For instance, if the above Interim Index numbers (including potatoes and onions) for each quarter of 1953 were rounded off to 100, 102, 102 and 102 respectively, they would suggest a rise of 2 per cent. in the June Quarter, 1953 and no change in the September Quarter, 1953. The figures for the Interim Index as presented in the table indicate a rise of the order of 1 per cent. in the June Quarter, 1953, and 1 per cent. in the September Quarter, 1953. Price indexes cannot measure aggregate price variations with an accuracy of the order of one-tenth of 1 per cent.

SECTION IV.

MINIMUM RATES OF WAGE FOR ADULT MALE WORKERS IN THE MAIN OCCUPATIONS IN THE CAPITAL CITY OF EACH STATE FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK (EXCLUDING OVERTIME) AT 31st DECEMBER, 1958.

NOTE.—These rates are quoted from the latest Awards, Determinations or Agreements which were in force at 31st December, 1958. Where two or more Award, Determination or Agreement Rates are quoted, the reason is that different rates of wage have been fixed for various classes or grades of work. In certain cases of this nature the wages are shown in the form (say) 290s. 0d. to 335s. 0d., indicating that in addition to the two rates specified there are also certain intermediate rates in force. In other cases the rates are shown in the form 327s. 0d. and 339s. 0d., indicating that there are only two minimum or standard rates in force for different classes or grades of work, and that there are no intermediate minimum or standard rates. Except where otherwise specified by a numerical prefix in small type, the hours of labour constituting a full week's work are 40. Rates for some occupations have been revised and are not necessarily comparable with those quoted in previous issues.

GROUP I.—WOOD, FURNITURE, SAWMILLS AND TIMBER YARDS.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Coopering—	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
Coopers	343 0	348 0	336 0	331 0	352 0	375 0
Furniture—						
Cabinetmakers	345 0	335 0	328 0	331 0	347 5	342 0
Carpet Planners	345 0	335 0	..	331 0	346 11	342 0
Chairmakers	345 0	335 0	328 0	331 0	347 5	342 0
French Polishers	345 0	335 0	328 0	331 0	345 11	342 0
Upholsterers	345 0	335 0	328 0	331 0	345 11	342 0
Woodcarvers	345 0	335 0	328 0	331 0	345 11	342 0
Wood Machinists	345 0	290/ to 335/	328 0	286/ to 331/	316/11 & 345/11	297/ to 342/
Mattress Making—Wire—						
Finishers	327 0	290 0	321 7	286 0	303 5	297 0
Makers	327/ & 339/	335 0	321 7	331 0	316 11	342 0
Picture Framing—						
Stainers	327 0	300 0	310 0	296 0	303 5	307 0
Joiners	327 0	290 0	310 0	286 0		297 0
Mount Cutters	327 0	290 0	310 0	286 0		297 0
Sawmilling and Timber Yards—						
Box and Casemakers	308 0	300 0	296 0	296 0	295 5	307 0
Labourers	282 0	274 0	278 6	270 0	273 5	281 0
Machinists—						
Box Printing	289 6	281 6	..	277 6	..	288 6
Boults Carver	338 0	330 0	..	326 0	..	337 0
Nailing	293 0	285 0	281 6	281 0	..	292 0
Planing	311/ & 338/	303/ & 330/	281 6	299/ & 326/	294/5 to 334/11	310/ & 337/
Shaping	338 0	330 0	281 6	326 0	341 5	337 0
Ordermen	316 0	308 0	301 6	304 0	312 11	315 0
Saw Doctors	358 0	350 0	346 0	346 0	360 11	357 0
Sawyers—						
Band or Jig	310/6 to 343/	302/6 to 335/	301/6 to 331/	298/6 to 331/	312/11 & 331/11	309/6 to 342/
Circular	313/ & 335/	305/ & 327/	..	301/ & 323/	312/11 & 328/11	312/ & 334/
Stackers	285/ & 293/	277/ & 285/	..	273/ & 281/	286/5 & 294/5	284/ & 292/
Wood Turners	338 0	330 0	311 6	326 0	..	337 0

SECTION IV.—*continued.*

GROUP II.—ENGINEERING, METAL WORKS, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Agricultural Implements—	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
Assemblers ..	313 0	285/ & 295/	288 0	281/ & 291/	298/5 & 308/5	312 0
Bulldozermen ..	331 0	297 6	306 0	293 6	..	330 0
Drillers	303/ to 343/	287 6	278/ to 318/	283 6	340 11	302/ to 342/
Fitters	313/ & 343/	300/ to 335/	288/ & 318/	296/ to 331/	318/5 & 323/5	312/ to 342/
Labourers — Unskilled	277 0	269 0	252 0	265 0	273 5	276 0
Machinists—Metal ..	303/ to 343/	295/ to 335/	278/ to 318/	291/ to 331/	308/5 to 348/5	302/ to 342/
Painters—Brush ..	291 0	283 0	266 0	279 0	295 11	290 0
Spray ..	293 0	285 0	268 0	281 0	298 5	292 0
Patternmakers ..	365 6	357 6	340 6	353 6	370 11	364 6
Sheet Metal Workers	318/ & 343/	310/ to 335/	293/ & 318/	306/ to 331/	323/5 & 348/5	317/ & 342/
Strikers	291/ & 295/6	283/ & 287/6	266/ & 270/6	279/ & 283/6	297 5	290/ & 294/6
Boilermaking—						
Boilermakers ..	343 0	335 0	358 6	331 0	348 5	342 0
Structural Steel Tradesmen	343 0	335 0	..	331 0	348 5	342 0
Cycles and Motor Cycles—						
Assemblers ..	292 6	296/6 & 308/	314 6	288/ & 300/6	298 5	305/ & 319/6
Frame Builders ..	303 0	308/ & 313/6	344 0	297/ & 312/	298 5	319 6
Repairers	303 0	308/ & 313/6		297/ & 312/	323 5	319 6
Turners (Cycle) ..	303 0	338 0		..	348 5	324 0
Electrical Installation—						
Cable Jointers ..	354 0	327/6 & 332/6	358 6	323/6 & 328/6	348 5	334/6 & 339/6
Electrical Fitters ..	354 0	335 0	361 3	331 0	348 5	342 0
Electrical Mechanics..	354 0	335 0	358 6	331 0	340 11	342 0
Patrolmen	..	288/6 & 317/6	308 5	284/6 & 313/6	..	295/6 & 324/6
Linesmen	346 0	317 6	358 6	313 6	333/5 & 339/5	324 6
Other Adults ..	302 0	269 0	297 6	265 0	293 5	276 0
Electrical Supply—						
Armature Winders ..	400 0	358 0	376 3	346 0	348 5	347 0
Cable Jointers ..	407 0	350/6 & 355/6	378 6	338/6 & 343/6	348 5	339/6 & 344/6
Instrument Makers ..	424 0	383 0	398 6	371 0	348 5	372 0
Linesmen	370/ & 385/	320/6 & 338/	358 6	331 0	333/5 & 339/5	329/6 to 347/
Meter Testers ..	398 0	320/6 & 331/6	378 9	301/ & 311/	..	317/ & 327/
Patrolmen—Night ..	437 0	(*a*) 383 2	(*a*) 338 6	(*a*) 355 8	..	(*a*) 411 11
Shift Electricians ..	430 0	358 0	365 3	346 0	..	347 0
Switchboard Attendants	..	316 6	297 6	309 6	..	325 6
Labourers	336 0	280 0	297 6	265 0	293 5	281 0
Electrical Trades—						
Electrical Fitters ..	343 0	335 0	361 3	331 0	348 5	342 0
Electrical Mechanics..	343 0	335 0	358 6	331 0	340 11	342 0
Radio Tradesmen ..	343 0	335 0	358 6	331 0	348 5	342 0
Electroplating—						
Platers	290/ to 343/	282/ to 335/	331 0	278/ to 331/	323/5 & 348/5	289/ to 342/
Polishers	308 0	300 0	296/ to 331/	296 0	313 5	307 0
Engineering—						
Blacksmiths ..	345 6	337 6	366 0	333 6	348 5	344 6
Borers and Slotters ..	318/ & 343/	310/ & 335/	358 6	306/ & 331/	323/5 & 348/5	317/ & 342/
Brassfinishers ..	318/ & 343/	310/ & 335/	358 6	306/ & 331/	348 5	317/ & 342/
Coppersmiths ..	345 6	337 6	361 0	333 6	300/11 & 348/5	344 6
Drillers—Radial ..	293/ & 335/6	285/ & 327/6	310 6	281/ & 323/6	298/5 & 340/11	292/ & 334/6
Fitters	343 0	335 0	358 6	331 0	348 5	342 0
Millers	318/ & 343/	310/ & 335/	358 6	306/ & 331/	323/5 & 348/5	317/ & 342/
Patternmakers ..	365 6	357 6	381 0	353 6	370 11	364 6

(*a*) Includes allowance for continuous night work.

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SECTION IV.—*continued.*

GROUP II.—ENGINEERING, METAL WORKS, ETC.—*continued.*

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Engineering—continued.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
Planers—						
Rail and Plate Edge	318/ & 343/	310/ & 335/	310 6	306/ & 331/	323/5 & 348/5	317/ & 342/
Other	318/ & 343/	310/ & 335/	358 6	306/ & 331/	323/5 & 348/5	317/ & 342/
Shapers	318/ & 343/	310/ & 335/	358 6	306/ & 331/	323/5 & 348/5	317/ & 342/
Turners	343 0	335 0	358 6	331 0	348 5	342 0
Foundry—						
Coremakers—Machine	296/ to 318/	288/ to 310/	358 6	284/ to 306/	297/5 to 323/5	295/ & 317/
,, Jobbing	343 0	335 0	358 6	331 0	348 5	342 0
Dressers	291/0 to 315/6	283/ to 307/6	310 0	279/ to 303/6	300/11 & 305/11	290/ & 314/6
Furnacemen ..	305/6 to 313/	297/6 to 305/	311/6 to 341/	293/6 to 301/	310/11 to 318/5	304/6 to 312/
Moulders—Machine..	296/ to 318/	288/ to 310/	323 6	284/ to 306/	297/5 to 323/5	295/ to 317/
,, Jobbing ..	343 0	335 0	358 6	331 0	348 5	342 0
Ironworking Assistants—						
Boilermakers' Assistants	291 0	283 0	305 6	279 0	297 5	290 0
Fitters' Assistants ..	291 0	283 0	305 6	279 0	297 5	290 0
Furnacemen's Assistants	291 0	283 0	295 4	279 0	296 5	290 0
Moulders' Assistants..	291 0	283 0	307 0	279 0	297 5	290 0
Strikers	291/ & 295/6	283/ & 287/6	305 6	279/ & 283/6	297 5	290/ & 294/6
Nailmaking—						
Case Wirers ..	290 0	272 0	..	..	..	275 0
Labourers	290 0	272 0	..	..	..	275 0
Setters Up	308 0	308 0	..	..	..	300 0
Sheet Metal Working—						
Canister Makers ..	298 0	290 0	308 6	286 0	303 5	297 0
Japanners—						
Coating or Brushwork	290 0	282 0	323 6	278 0	298 5	289 0
Ornamental ..	318 0	310 0	323 6	306 0	298 5	317 0
Solderers	290/ & 298/	282/ & 290/	..	278/ & 286/	293 5	289/ & 297/
Sheet Metal Workers—						
1st Class ..	343 0	335 0	358 6	331 0	348 5	342 0
2nd Class ..	318 0	310 0	323 6	306 0	323 5	317 0
Wire Working—						
Journeymen ..	293 0	308 0	284 0	..	280 11	..

GROUP III.—FOOD, DRINK, TOBACCO, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Aerated Water and Cordials—	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
Bottlers	295 0	287 0	270 0	294 0	288 5	294 0
Drivers (Motor, 3-ton)	312 6	305 6	304 6	301 6	319 5	312 6
Packers	292 0	284 0	267 0	290 0	273 5	291 0
Wirers	292 0	284 0	267 0	290 0	273 5	291 0
Baking (Bread)—						
Board Hands ..	356 0	362 6	..	331 0	358 5	352 0
Carters (One Horse) ..	333 0	335 6	303 0	323 6	299 11	306 0
Doughmen	368/6 & 371/6	369 2	303 6	372 3	370 5	352 0
Ovenmen	364 6	362 6	301 0	331 0	358 5	352 0
Singlehands ..	361 0	385 10	303 6	342 3	370 5	362 0
Baking (Biscuits and Cakes)—						
Adult Males ..	291 6	283 0	270 6	269 0	276 5	276 0
Bakers	324 0	313 0	281 0	301 0	308 11	321 0
Mixers	306/ & 311/6	313 0	281 0	296 0	314 5	327 0

SECTION IV.—*continued.*

GROUP III.—FOOD, DRINK, TOBACCO, ETC.—*continued.*

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Brewing—						
Adult Males ..	318 0	303 0	302 0	319 0	321 5	310 0
Bottlers and Washers	318 0	303 0	302 0	319 0	321 5	310 0
Cellarmen	318/ & 325/	310 0	317 0	334 0	326 5	310 0
Drivers (Motor, 3-ton)	332 0	305 6	308 6	335 0	336 5	312 6
Towermen	325 0	310 0	302 0	334 0	326 5	333 0
Butchering (Carcass)—						
Chilling Room Hands	309/ to 318/	366 6	345 9	324/9 & 336/9	301 5	371 0
Labourers (Beef) ..	315 0	334 6	322 6	324 9	289 5	337 0
,, (Mutton) ..	303 0	334 6	329 6	324 9	289 5	337 0
Scalders	373 0	345 0	328 2	430 0	318 5	349 0
Slaughtermen (Beef) ..	417 0	411 6	(*a*)	430 0	318 5	409 0
,, (Mutton)	(*a*)	411 6	(*a*)	430 0	318 5	409 0
Butchering (Retail)—						
Carters (Cash Cutting)	334 0	326 0	309 0	322 0	325 11	332 0
,, (One Horse) ..	311 0	283 6	286 0	299 0	286 5	290 6
General Butchers ..	343 0	335 0	318 0	331 0	325 11	342 0
Shopmen	343 0	335 0	318 0	331 0	325 11	342 0
Smallgoodsmen ..	343 0	335 0	318 0	331 0	325 11	335 0
Cold Storage and Ice—						
Chamber Hands ..	315/ & 329/	366 6	280 0	300 0	298 5	348 3
Pullers and Stackers ..	302 0	353 10	285 9	300 0	298 5	..
Confectionery—						
Confectioners, Grade I.	330 0	320 0	318 0	316 0	313 5	324 0
Storemen	313 0	306 6	293 0	292 0	278 5	303 0
Ham and Bacon Curing—						
Curers—First Hand ..	350 6	372 6	327 7	349 0	343 5	355 0
Cutters Up—First Hand	328 0	372 6	321 2	349 0	325 11	355 0
Ham Baggers ..	..	345 0	312 6	321 6	..	342 0
Lardmen	308 0	345/ to 357/	312 6	321/6 & 333/6	..	342 0
Rollers and Trimmers	323 0	357 0	306 1	333 6	309/5 & 325/11	355 0
Scalders	333 0	357 0	317 6	333 6	325 11	355 0
Slaughtermen ..	333 0	372 6	329 11	349 0	343 5	409 0
Smallgoodsmen—First Hand	328 0	363 9	327 7	340 3	325 11	363 0
Smokers—First Hand	328 0	357 0	318 5	333 6	..	342 0
Jam Making and Preserving—						
Adult Males ..	287 0	287 0	279 6	287 0	285 5	287 0
Solderers	292 0	292 0	..	292 0	293 5	292 0
Malting—						
Maltsters	320 0	308 0	300 0	..	321 5	310 0
Milling—Condiments—						
Grinders	321 6	314 0	..	..	..	..
Mixers or Blenders ..	315 6	294 0	282 6	..	302 5	..
Stone Dressers ..	321 6	314 0	..	..	..	..
Milling—Flour—						
Millers—Head ..	385 0	385 0	340 0	385 0	385 0	366 9
,, Shift ..	347/6 to 385/	347/6 to 385/	316/ to 329/	347/6 to 385/	347/6 to 385/	359/9 to 380/
Packermen	323 0	323 0	295 6	323 0	323 0	335 9
Purifiermen ..	327 6	327 6	298 0	327 6	327 6	330 3
Silksmen	327 6	327 6	298 0	327 6	327 6	330 3
Storemen—Head ..	330/ & 338/	330/ & 338/	298/ & 303/6	330/ & 338/	330/ & 338/	315/9 & 322/6
Topmen	327 6	327 6	298 0	327 6	327 6	330 3
Truckers and Others..	298 0	298 0	293 0	298 0	298 0	306 0
Milling—Oatmeal—						
Kilnmen	313 0	289 6	..	..	..	315/ & 319/3
Millers—Head ..	340 6	314 0	..	..	..	356/9 & 361/9
Pastrycooking—						
Carters	306 0	296 0	298 0	323 6	309 5	306 0
Pastrycooks ..	350 0	332 0	309/6 & 317/	331 0	323 5	334 6

(*a*) Piece-work rates.

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SECTION IV.—*continued.*

GROUP IV.—CLOTHING, TEXTILES, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
Bootmaking—						
Bootmakers ..	317 0	317 0	317 0	317 0	309 0	317 0
Tailoring—Order—						
Cutters	423 0	358 0	358 0	358 0	358 0	358 0
Pressers	320 0	320 0	320 0	320 0	320 0	320 0
Tailors	331 0	331 0	331 0	331 0	331 0	331 0
Trimmers	320 0	320 0	320 0	320 0	320 0	320 0
Tailoring—Ready-made—						
Cutters	336 0	336 0	336 0	336 0	336 0	336 0
Folders	293 0	293 0	293 0	293 0	293 0	293 0
Machinists	320 0	320 0	320 0	320 0	320 0	320 0
Pressers	320 0	320 0	320 0	320 0	320 0	320 0
Tailors	331 0	331 0	331 0	331 0	331 0	331 0
Trimmers	320 0	320 0	320 0	320 0	320 0	320 0
Textile-Working—Woollen Mills—						
Carders	295 0	295 0	288 0	288 0	295 0	295 0
Dyehousemen ..	300 0	300 0	288 0	293 0	300 0	300 0
Labourers—General ..	266 0	266 0	270 0	259 0	266 0	266 0
Pattern Weavers ..	309 0	309 0	..	302 0	309 0	309 0
Scourers (Wool) ..	309 6	309 6	291/ & 297/6	302 6	309 6	309 6
Spinners	295 0	295 0	288/ & 297/	288 0	295 0	295 0
Loom Tuners ..	287/ to 333/	287/ to 333/	284/ to 326/	280/ to 326/	287/ to 333/	287/ to 333/

GROUP V.—BOOKS, PRINTING, BOOKBINDING, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
Bookbinding—						
Bookbinders ..	343 0	335 0	318 0	331 0	336 0	342 0
Finishers	343 0	335 0	318 0	331 0	336 0	342 0
Marblers	343 0	335 0	318 0	331 0	336 0	342 0
Paper Rulers ..	343 0	335 0	318 0	331 0	336 0	342 0
Engraving (Photo)(a)—						
Engravers	346 9	341 9	357 9	316 0	358 5	350 9
Etchers—Half-tone ..	356 9	351 9	367 9	320 6	358 5	360 9
Etchers—Line ..	346 9	341 9	357 9	316 0	348 5	350 9
Camera Operators ..	356 9	351 9	367 9	320 6	358 5	360 9
Photo Imposers ..	346 9	341 9	357 9	316 0	348 5	350 9
Routers	343 0	338 0	354 0	314 0	338 5	347 0
Lithographing—						
Printers	343 0	335 0	318 0	331 0	336 0	342 0
Rotary Machinists ..	343 0	335 0	318 0	331 0	336 0	342 0
Stone Polishers ..	296 0	288 0	271 0	284 0	289 0	295 0
Printing (Daily Newspapers)—						
Compositors (Machine)						
Day Work ..	433 0	[1]449 6	429 6	426 0	[1]447 11	437 0
Night Work ..	453 0	[1]485 6	465 6	451 0	[3]480 11	462 0
Linotype Attendants—						
Day Work ..	358 0	362 6	358 0	357 0	[1]363 5	368 0
Night Work ..	378 0	[1]398 6	394 0	382 0	[2]396 5	393 0
Linotype Operators—						
Day Work ..	398 0	421 0	413 0	396 0	[3]447 11	407 0
Night Work ..	418 0	[1]457 0	449 0	421 0	[3]480 11	432 0
Machinists (First Hand)—						
Day Work ..	388 0	425 6	421 6	411 0	[1]424 11	422 0
Night Work ..	408 0	[1]461 6	457 6	436 0	[3]457 11	447 0
Publishing Hands—						
Day Work ..	358 0	362 6	358 0	341 0	[1]368 5	352 0
Night Work ..	378 0	[1]398 6	394 0	366 0	[3]401 5	377 0
Readers—						
Day Work ..	398 0	425 0	413 0	403 0	[1]424 5	414 0
Night Work ..	418 0	[1]461 0	449 0	428 0	[3]457 5	439 0

(*a*) Other than in newspaper offices.

(1) 38 hours. (2) 36 hours. (3) 34 hours.

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SECTION IV.—*continued.*

GROUP V.—BOOKS, PRINTING, BOOKBINDING, ETC.—*continued.*

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Printing (Daily Newspapers)—continued.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Readers' Assistants—						
Day Work ..	358 0	366 6	365 6	338 0	[1]377 5	349 0
Night Work ..	378 0	[1]402 6	401 6	363 0	[2]410 5	374 0
Stereotypers (First Class)—						
Day Work ..	388 0	[3]421 0	413 0	391 0	[1]420 5	402 0
Night Work ..	408 0	[1]457 0	449 0	416 0	[2]453 5	427 0
Printing (Job Offices)—						
Compositors ..	343/ to 365/6	335/ to 357/6	318/ to 340/6	331/ to 353/6	336/ to 358/6	342/ to 364/6
Electrotypers ..	343 0	335 0	318 0	331 0	336 0	342 0
General Hands ..	284 0	276 0	259 0	272 0	277 0	283 0
Linotype Operators ..	365 6	357 6	340 6	353 6	358 6	364 6
Machinists	343 0	335 0	318 0	331 0	336 0	342 0
Monotype Operators	365 6	357 6	340 6	353 6	358 6	364 6
Monotype Casting Machinists ..	343 0	335 0	318 0	331 0	336 0	342 0
Readers	350 6	342 6	325 6	338 6	343 6	349 6
Stereotypers ..	343 0	335 0	318 0	331 0	336 0	342 0

GROUP VI.—OTHER MANUFACTURING.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Brickmaking—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Burners	313/6 & 321/6	314 0	295 6	307 6	310 11	325 0
Drivers, Motor (5 tons)	335 0	315 0	314 0	311 0	329 5	327 0
Drawers	343 6	313/6 to 326/	292 10	312 6	315 5	325 0
Labourers	310 0	303 0	284 8	295 0	299 5	321 6
Machinemen ..	335 6	310 6	292 10	306 0	299 5	321 6
Panmen	318/6 & 338/6	306/ & 310/6	292 10	313/6 & 316/6	299 5	321 6
Pitmen	336 4	328/6 & 334/6	286 7	320 0	299 5	321 6
Setters	343 6	313/6 to 326/	291 4	312 6	315 5	328/6 & 335/
Wheelers	332 0	308 0	286 7	301 0	299 5	321 6
Brushmaking—						
Bass Broom Drawers	339 6	308 0	291 6	301 0	306 11	..
Finishers	339 6	308 0	291 6	301 0	306 11	..
Machinists—Boring ..	318 6	290 0	291 6	301 0	306 11	..
Paint Brush Makers ..	348 0	320 6	291 6	301 0	..	..
Candle Making—						
Acidifiers	300 6	306 6	278 6	..	..	..
General Hands ..	297 0	282 0	276 0	278 0	294 5	..
Glycerine Hands ..	300 6	306 6	283 6	302 6	303 5	..
Moulders	309 3	292 6	283 6	288 6	297 5	..
Stillmen	314 6	306 6	287 0	302 6	..	..
Cardboard Box Making—						
Guillotine and other Cutters	299/6 to 321/9	291/6 to 313/9	274/6 to 296/9	287/6 to 309/9	292/6 to 314/9	298/6 to 320/9
Other Adults ..	284 0	276 0	259 0	272 0	277 0	283 0
Vehicle Building—						
Bodymakers, 1st Class	343 0	335 0	358 6	331 0	348 5	342 0
Labourers	271 0	263 0	295 4	259 0	273 5	270 0
Painters	296/6 to 335/6	288/6 to 327/6	351 0	284/6 to 323/6	340 11	295/6 to 334/6
Smiths	345 6	337 6	361 0	333 6	348 5	344 6
Trimmers	318/ & 335/6	310/ & 327/6	351 0	306/ & 323/6	340 11	317/ & 334/6
Wheelmaking Machinists	343 0	335 0	353 6	331 0	340 11	342 0
Wheelwrights ..	343 0	335 0	358 6	331 0	348 5	342 0

(1) 38 hours. (2) 36 hours. (3) 39 hours.

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SECTION IV.—*continued.*

GROUP VI.—OTHER MANUFACTURING—*continued.*

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
Fellmongering—						
Bate Hands ..	298 0	291 0	275 0	287 0	313 5	294 0
Green Hands ..	298 0	291 0	275 0	287 0	313/5 & 324/5	294 0
Limepit Men ..	298 0	291 0	275 0	287 0	313 5	294 0
Machinists	298/ to 308/6	291/ to 301/6	275/ to 285/6	287/ to 297/6	313/5 & 324/5	294/ to 304/6
Soakhole Men ..	302 0	295 0	279 0	291 0	324 5	298 0
Wool Sorters ..	337/ & 367/	330/ & 360/	314/ & 344/	326/ & 356/	327 5	333/ & 363/
Gas Making and Supply—						
Coke Trimmers ..	296 0	284 0	..	280 0	287 5	288 0
Gas Fitters ..	366 0	352 6	343 9	345 0	336 5	342 0
Labourers	287 0	278 0	275 0	271 0	276 5	282 0
Mainlayers ..	320 6	305 6	313 6	304 6	313 11	309 6
Metermakers ..	348 0	333 0	358 6	337/ to 352/	317/11 to 331/5	342 0
Meter Testers ..	308/ & 323/	313 0	312 6	307 0	320 11	312 0
Service Layers ..	328 0	305 6	306 0	304 6	313 11	309 6
Stokers	318 0	303/ & 315/6	300 0	302 0	317 11	307/ & 319/6
Glassfounding—						
Furnacemen ..	315 6	308/ & 313/	291/ & 296/	304/ & 309/	309/ & 314/	315/ & 320/
Labourers	295 6	285 0	268 0	281 0	286 0	292 0
Lehr Attendants ..	310 6	298 0	281 0	294 0	299 0	305 0
Sorters	310 6	293/ & 300/	276/ & 283/	289/ & 296/	294/ & 301/	300/ & 307/
Glass Working and Glazing						
Bevellers	373 0	335 0	341 9	331 0	348 5	342 0
Cutters and Glaziers ..	359 4	327 6	341 9	323 6	..	334 6
Lead Light Glaziers ..	359 4	335 0	..	331 0	348 5	342 0
Silverers	373 0	335 0	341 9	331 0	348 5	342 0
Jewellery, Clock and Watch Making—						
Chainmakers ..	343 0	325 6	313 6	316 0	348 5	..
Engravers	358 0	331 0	313/6 & 326/	319 0	348 5	..
Mounters	318/ to 358/	313/ to 353/	313/6 & 326/	326 0	348 5	..
Setters	343/ to 358/	325/6 to 353/	..	326 0	348 5	..
Watch and Clock Makers and Repairers	365 6	341 0	346 0	324 6	354 5	319/ & 362/
Leather and Canvas Work—						
Canvas Workers ..	308 0	300 0	283 0	296 0	287 5	307 0
Leather Workers ..	318 0	310 0	293 0	306 0	325 5	317 0
Masonry—Marble and Stone—						
Carvers	388 4	365 6	348 8	390 0	348 5	..
Machinists—						
Carborundum ..	375 0	302/3 & 321/	342 0	293/ & 311/6	298 5	..
Other	375 0	302/3 & 321/	342 0	293/ & 311/6	298 5	..
Masons	375 0	342 0	342 0	332 0	348 5	359 0
Paper Bag Making—						
Guillotine Cutters ..	311 9	303 9	286 9	299 9	304 9	310 9
Machinists	311/9 & 326/9	303/9 & 318/9	286/9 & 301/9	299/9 & 314/9	304/9 & 319/9	310/9 & 325/9
Paper Making—						
Beatermen	367 6	375 6	..	..	..	399 6
Breakermen ..	326 0	318 0	..	..	..	..
Guillotine Men ..	330 6	322 6	..	..	..	338 0
Machinemen ..	381 6	409 6	(*a*) 277 6	..	..	416 6
Ragbreakermen ..	323 6	315 6	..	..	..	..
Other Adults ..	308 6	300 6	(*a*) 274 6	..	..	307 6

(*a*) Paper board.

SECTION IV.—*continued.*

GROUP VI.—OTHER MANUFACTURING—*continued.*

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
Potteries—General—						
Burners—Head ..	315 0	304 6	303 4	293/ & 296/6	303 5	319 0
Hollow-ware Pressers	330 9	295 0	295 6	283 6	..	332 0
Sanitary Pressers ..	330 9	296 6	295 6	283 6	286/11 & 299/11	332 0
Throwers—1st Class..	333/9 & 337/	288/6 to 307/	307 0	307/ & 326/	..	335 0
Potteries—Pipemaking—						
Burners—Head ..	321 11	304 6	303 4	311 6	308 5	319 0
Drawers	323 6	292 6	..	296 6	300 5	..
Moulders	327 0	..	..	311 6	303 5	315 6
Mould Makers ..	..	307 0	295 6	..	300 5	..
Setters	323 6	300 6	291 4	305/ & 311/6	300 5	319 0
Quarrying—						
Borers—Hand or Machine ..	334/9 & 341/3	318 0	287 11	..	301 11	312 0
Dressers	357 2	328 6	294 7	..	301 11	..
Facemen	340 4	333 0	287 11	..	301 11	312 0
Hammermen ..	334 9	333 6	287 11	299 0	301 11	312 0
Crusher Feeders ..	342 2	325 0	287 0	292 6	308 5	321 0
Quarrymen ..	357 2	..	294 7	..	..	321 0
Rubber Working—						
Calendar Hands ..	323/ & 335/6	315/ & 327/6	311 0	311 0	..	..
Cycle Tyre Makers ..	290 0	282 0	288 6	..	298 5	300 6
Dough Mixers ..	290 0	282 0	273 6	267 6	..	..
Hosemakers ..	296/ to 308/	288/ to 300/	275 0	..	..	..
Mechanical Lathe Hands	296/ to 303/	288/ to 295/	275 0	279 6	..	..
Mill Hands.. ..	290/ to 308/	282/ to 300/	275 0	289 0	..	..
Spreaders	296/ to 308/	288/ to 300/	275 0	..	..	..
Surgical, Packing, and other Makers ..	296/ to 318/	288/ to 310/	275 0	..	..	..
Tyre Moulders ..	290/ to 303/	282/ to 295/	288 6	..	298 5	300 6
Sailmaking—						
Sailmakers	320 0	312 0	295 0	308 0	..	319 0
Shipbuilding(a)—						
Carpenters and Joiners	394 0	394 0	394 0	394 0	394 0	394 0
Dockers	284/ to 308/6	284/ to 308/6	284/ to 308/6	284/ to 308/6	284/ to 308/6	284/ to 308/6
Painters	284 0	284 0	284 0	284 0	284 0	284 0
Shipwrights ..	340 0	340 0	340 0	340 0	340 0	340 0
Soap Making—						
General Hands ..	297 0	282 0	276 0	278 0	294 5	..
Mixers	304/ to 309/3	287/ to 307/6	292 3	283/ & 291/	303 5	..
Soap Makers ..	335 6	326 6	318 6	310 0	297 5	..
Tanning and Currying—						
Beamsmen	321 6	313 6	296 6	309 6	314 6	320 6
Curriers	346 6	338 6	321 6	334 6	339 6	345 6
Japanners or Enamellers	321 0	313 0	296 0	309 0	314 0	320 0
Limejobbers ..	319 6	311 6	294 6	307 6	312 6	318 6
Machinists—						
Fleshing	328 0	320 0	303 0	316 0	321 0	327 0
Scouring	310 6	302 6	285 6	298 6	303 6	309 6
Splitting	336/6 to 346/6	328/6 to 338/6	311/6 to 321/6	324/6 to 334/6	329/6 to 339/6	335/6 to 345/6
Unhairing ..	321 6	313 6	296 6	309 6	314 6	329 6
Rollers and Strikers ..	320/ & 322/6	312/ & 314/6	295/ & 297/6	308/ & 310/6	313/ & 315/6	319/ & 321/6
Tablemen	315/6 to 322/6	307/6 to 314/6	290/6 to 297/6	303/6 to 310/6	308/6 to 315/6	314/6 to 321/6
Tent and Tarpaulin Making—						
Cutters	308 0	300 0	283 0	296 0	..	307 0
Machinists	308 0	300 0	283 0	296 0	287 5	307 0
Sewers—Hand ..	308 0	300 0	283 0	296 0	287 5	307 0
Tent Makers ..	308 0	300 0	283 0	296 0	287 5	307 0

(a) Permanent rates.

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SECTION IV.—*continued.*

GROUP VII.—BUILDING.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney. (a)	Melbourne. (a)	Brisbane.	Adelaide. (a)	Perth.	Hobart. (a)
Building—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Bricklayers—						
Sewer and Tunnel ..	396 8	413 11	358 3	379 2	393 9	395 0
Surface	376 8	398 4	350 9	369 2	380 5	395 0
Builders' Labourers ..	318 4	342 6	309 9	305 0	309 3	322 6
Carpenters	385 0	402 6	354 9	372 6	383 5	398 4
Lathers	385 0	402 6	354 9	372 6	381 11	395 0
Metal Ceilers ..	385 0	402 6	354 9	372 6	383 5	398 4
Masons	375 0	401 0	342 0	369 2	378 5	395 0
Painters, Paperhangers	372 6	395 10	350 9	356 8	379 8	395 0
Signwriters ..	388 4	395 10	352 3	356 8	379 8	395 0
Plasterers—						
Sewer or Tunnel ..	401 8	398 4	359 3	380 10	395 3	395 0
Surface	381 8	398 4	351 9	370 10	381 11	395 0
Plumbers, Gasfitters ..	389 3	408 5	351 9	339 0	382 11	375 0
Slaters	385 5	379 2	350 9	..	336 11	..
Tilers (Roof) ..	385 5	379 2	350 9	332 6	336 11	..
Tuckpointers ..	376 8	398 4	350 9	369 2	380 5	395 0
Water Supply and Sewerage—						
Concrete Workers ..	327/2 to 352/2	301/ & 310/	285/10 to 305/4	274/ & 279/	288/5 to 303/5	297/ & 304/
Labourers	320/11 to 339/8	295 0	278/6 to 318/5	256 0	280 11	291 0
Miners—Sewer ..	[1]348/10 to 367/9	307/ & 313/	307/ & 312/	284 0	293/11 to 322/2	297/ & 311/
Pipe-jointers and Setters	339/5 to 339/8	313 0	286 6	279/ to 289/	303/5 to 318/5	308 0

(*a*) Rates are weekly equivalents of hourly rates. They include allowances for leave, holidays, following the job, etc.

GROUP VIII.—MINING.

Industry and Occupation.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Queensland.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.
Coal-mining—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Blacksmiths ..	349 0	344 0	324/ & 340/	..	[2]370 1	348 0
Bracemen	334 0	313 6	309/ & 325/	..	..	313 6
Carpenters	353 0	348 0	328/ & 344/	..	..	352 0
Deputies	396 6	386 0	371/6 & 387/6	..	[2]396 2	..
Engine Drivers—						
Locomotive ..	330/ & 403/	..	327/6 & 343/6	..	..	317/4 & 351/
Stationary ..	317/6 to 347/6	317/ & 329/	304/6 to 338/6	..	[2]327/5 & 332/11	309/5 to 324/
Winding	382 0	370 0	352/ to 373/	..	[2]375 3	356 0
Labourers—						
Surface	314 6	310 6	289/6 & 305/6	..	[2]305 6	313 6
Underground ..	317 6	310 6	289/6 & 305/6	..	[2]321 5	313 6
Miners—						
Machine	375 6	(*a*)	350/6 & 366/6	..	[2]340/6 to 382/2	374 6
Manual—Dry Work	(*b*) 352 6	(*b*) 342 0	(*b*)327/6 & 343/6	..	[2]340 6	..
Platmen or Banksmen	314/6 & 349/6	342 0	..	..	..	..
Shiftmen—						
Dry Work ..	352 6	342 0	327/6 & 343/6	..	[2]340 6	351 6
Wet Work ..	365 0	354 6	340/ & 356/	..	..	364 0
Shotfirers	385/ & 391/	380 0	360/ & 376/	..	[2]380 5	384 0
Timbermen	352 6	354 6	327/6 & 343/6	..	[2]340 6	351 6
Weighmen	319 0	..	353 6	..	382 6	..
Wheelers	318/6 & 321/	323 6	293/6 & 309/6	..	[2]324 3	317 6

(*a*) Piece-work rates. (*b*) Piece-work rates normally operate for these occupations but minimum weekly wage rates are as shown.

(1) 35 to 40 hours. (2) 38½ hours.

37

SECTION IV.—*continued.*

GROUP VIII.—MINING—*continued.*

Industry and Occupation.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Queensland.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d. (a)	s. d.
Gold and Other Mining (except Coal)—						
Battery Feeders ..	305/ to 315/	273/ to 286/	291 6	[1]289 0	319 0	275/ to 295/
Bracemen	308/ to 318/	283/ to 296/	297/ & 302/6	[1]284 0	[2]326 11	285/ to 305/
Engine Drivers—						
Stationary ..	285/ to 321/	305/ to 326/	265/ to 329/	..	336/11 to 351/11	..
Winding and Loco.	291/ to 330/	306/ to 346/	327/6 to 329/	[1]285 0	356/11 to 415/3	287/ to 307/
Firemen	280/6 to 297/	295/6 & 308/	298 6	..	321 6	..
Labourers, Underground	300/ to 310/	278/ to 291/	291 6	[1]279 0	[2]315 3	280/ to 300/
Miners—						
Machine	319/ to 344/6	289/ to 322/	297/ & 305/2	..	[2]336/11 to 355/3	291/ to 311/
Manual—						
Dry Work ..	319/ to 332/	297/ to 322/	297 0	[1]291/ & 296/	[2]326/11 to 343/2	299/ to 325/
Wet Work ..	331/6 to 344/6	309/6 to 334/6	308 8	[1]298/6 & 303/6	[2]334/5 to 350/8	311/6 to 337/6
Platmen	308/ to 318/	283/ to 296/	297 0	[1]286 0	[2]326 11	285/ to 305/
Shaft Sinkers—						
Dry Work ..	322/ to 332/	303/ to 322/	297 0	[1]296 0	[2]343/2 to 355/3	305/ to 331/
Wet Work ..	334/6 to 344/6	315/6 to 334/6	308 8	[1]303 6	[2]350/8 to 362/9	317/6 to 343/6
Timbermen	320/ to 337/	300/ to 318/	305 2	[1]292/ & 297/	[2]343 2	302/ to 327/

(*a*) Excludes district allowances.

GROUP IX.—RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY SERVICES.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Railways—						
Engine Drivers (Loco.)—						
Railmotor ..	348/ to 385/6	338/ to 375/6	391 0	330/ to 367/6	348/5 to 408/5	351/ to 388/6
Steam, Diesel Electric or Electric ..	393/ & 408/	383/ & 398/	391 0	375/ & 390/	348/5 to 408/5	396/ & 411/
Express, Mail or Passenger ..	423 0	413 0	391 0	405 0	423 5	426 0
Shunting Engine ..	348/ & 363/	330/6 & 339/6	344/11 & 352/7	322/6 & 331/6	340/11 & 349/11	343/6 & 352/6
Firemen—						
Ordinary ..	310/6 & 325/6	300/6 & 315/6	321 0	292/6 & 307/6	297/5 to 333/5	313/6 & 328/6
Express, Mail or Passenger	333 0	323 0	321 0	315 0	333 5	336 0
Shunting Engine ..	297/to 306/6	281/6 to 296/6	314 10	273/6 to 288/6	291/11 to 306/11	294/6 to 309/6
Guards—						
1st Class ..	333/ to 351/	356 0	355 3	348 0	351 5	332/ to 354/
2nd Class ..	327 0	319/ to 341/	348 4	322/6 & 333/6	342 5	332/ to 354/
3rd Class, etc. ..	..	..	336 6	306/ & 315/	324/5 & 333/5	332/ to 354/
Porters	290/ to 296/	285/ to 300/6	299/4 & 303/3	272/ to 296/	287/5 to 306/11	297/6 to 336/
Shunters—						
Head	[3]385/6 to 411/	..	347/3 to 363/1	..	333/5 to 345/11	..
Leading	[3]343/6 to 369/6	[3]333/6 to 371/6	318 1	325/6 & 332/6	..	345/ & 351/
Ordinary ..	[3]306/ to 327/	[3]296/ to 317/	315 1	315 0	306/11 & 313/5	309/ to 330/

(1) 37 hours. (2) 37½ hours. (3) 76 hours per fortnight.

2b

SECTION IV.—*continued.*

GROUP IX.—RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY SERVICES—*continued.*

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
Railways—continued.						
Signalmen—						
Special	[1]400 6	[1]379 6	345/10 & 358/8	348/ & 363/	361 5	..
1st Class ..	[1]389 6	[1]353 0	340 10	333 0	333 5	318/ to 339/
2nd Class ..	374 6	336 0	332 0	318 0	321 5	318/ to 339/
3rd Class ..	363 0	323 0	325 0	303 0	306 11	318/ to 339/
4th Class ..	346 0	311 0	319 3	296 0	293 5	318/ to 339/
Tramways (Electric)—						
Car Washers or Cleaners	294 0	286 0	276 7	276/ & 279/	281 5	301 0
Conductors—						
1st Year	298 0	286 0	286/ & 290/6	278 6	295/11 & 310/11	301 0
2nd Year ..	313 0	300 6	290/6 & 295/	293 6	310 11	315 6
3rd Year, etc. ..	313 0	300 6	295 0	293 6	310 11	315 6
Labourers	288 6	281 0	278 6	276/ & 279/	273 5	293 0
Track Repairers ..	296/ & 309/	289 0	273/ to 288/8	279/ & 282/	295 11	304 0
Tram Drivers ..	325 6	308 0	292/ to 301/	301 0	318 5	323 0
Overhead Linesmen—						
Leading	373 0	335/6 to 365/6	378 6	328 6	338/11 to 375/11	366 0
Other	350 6	320 6	358 6	313 6	330 11	351 0
Pitmen	325 6	312 0	297/ & 316/6	296/ to 304/	310 11	327 0
Signalmen	333/ & 340/6	308/ & 318/	299/ & 303/6	303 6	..	..
Track Cleaners ..	288 6	286 0	279 0	276/ & 279/	273 5	301 0

GROUP X.—OTHER TRANSPORT.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
Carrying—Merchandise—						
Drivers of Motor Vehicles—						
25 cwt. or less ..	(*a*) 318 0	296 0	295 0	292 0	309 5	303 0
Over 25 cwt. to 3 tons ..	(*b*)327/ & 336/	305 6	304 6	301 6	319 5	312 6
Over 3 tons but under 6 tons ..	340/6 to 349/6	315 0	314 0	311 0	329 5	322 0
Motor Driver's Assistants	318 0	274 0	277 0	270 0	287 5	281 0
Loaders	337 0	287 0	286 0	283 0	287 5	294 0
Sanitary Carters (3 tons)	431 0	325 6	324 6	321 6	359 5	332 6
Lift Attendants—						
Passenger	297 0	303 0	277/ & 279/	287 0	289 5	..

(*a*) 20 cwt. or less. (*b*) Over 20 cwt. to 3 tons.

(1) 76 hours per fortnight.

SECTION IV.—*continued.*

GROUP XI.—SHIPPING, WHARF LABOUR, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Queensland.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.
Waterside Working—	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
Wharf Labourers per hour (*a*)	10 4	10 4	10/4 to 10/9	10 4	10 4	10 4
			£ *s. d.*			
Passenger Vessels (Interstate) (b)—						
Bakers per month			56/13/0 to 63/5/6(*c*)			
Barmen .. ,,			56/13/0(*d*)			
Butchers .. ,,			58/5/6 to 62/0/6(*c*)			
Cooks—						
Chief .. ,,			67/5/6 to 71/0/6(*c*)			
Second .. ,,			61/0/6 to 64/18/0(*c*)			
Third .. ,,			56/13/0(*c*)			
Ships .. ,,			59/18/0(*c*)			
Pantrymen .. ,,			56/0/6 to 58/5/6(*c*)			
Scullerymen ,,			55/5/6(*c*)			
Stewards—						
Chief Saloon ,,			69/10/6 to 77/10/6(*d*)			
Second .. ,,			60/10/6(*d*)			
Second Saloon,,			58/18/0(*d*)			
Fore Cabin ,,			58/5/6(*d*)			
Bedroom and Other .. ,,			55/5/6 to 56/0/6(*d*)			
All Vessels (Interstate) c—						
A.B. Seamen per month			59/8/0			
Boatswains ,,			60/8/0			
Donkeymen ,,			61/8/0			
Firemen .. ,,			60/8/0			
Greasers .. ,,			60/8/0			
Lamp Trimmers ,,			60/8/0			
Fuel Trimmers ,,			58/8/0			
	Vessels (Steam)			*Vessels (Steam)*		
Marine Engineers b e f—	*100 N.H.P. and under*			*Over 100 N.H.P.*		
Chief per month	94/1/6 to 100/19/0			104/14/0 to 152/4/0		
Second .. ,,	80/19/0			80/19/0 to 104/14/0		
Third .. ,,	74/1/6			74/1/6 to 89/14/0		
Fourth .. ,,	..			66/13/0 to 82/4/0		
Fifth and under ,,	..			65/8/0		
	Seagoing Passenger Vessels.			Seagoing Cargo Vessels.		
Merchant Service b f g—	Under 125 tons.	Over 10,000 tons.		Under 60 tons.	Over 10,000 tons.	
Masters per month	95/8/0	234/14/0		84/8/0	179/14/0	
Officers—						
Chief .. ,,	77/18/0	104/14/0		70/8/0	94/14/0	
Second .. ,,	70/8/0	94/14/0		65/8/0	87/4/0	
Third .. ,,	..	83/9/0		..	78/9/0	
4th, 5th and 6th .. ,,	..	65/8/0		..	65/8/0	

(*a*) Rates of wage quoted are for casuals on other than special cargo. (*b*) Rates of wage quoted are in addition to victualling and accommodation, valued at £9 9s. 1d. a month. (*c*) Not more than 8 hours a day. (*d*) Not more than 8 hours a day within a spread of 15 consecutive hours when at sea, between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. in terminal ports and between 6 a.m. and 5 p.m. in intermediate ports. (*e*) Minimum rates under the Commonwealth Award are classified according to nominal horsepower of vessels. (*f*) Ordinary lengths of duty in a day at sea or in port or partly at sea and partly in port shall be 8 hours. (*g*) Minimum rates under the Commonwealth Award are classified for interstate vessels and for vessels within a State according to tonnage; the lowest and highest classes for interstate passenger and cargo vessels are given here.

Forestry, Fishing, Trapping

SECTION IV.—*continued.*

GROUP XII.—PASTORAL, AGRICULTURAL, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Queensland.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Chaffcutting—						
Feeders (Travelling plant)	313 0	308 9	..	289 9	354 7	..
Feeders (Stationary mill)	313 0	296 9	..	289 9	354 7	..
Farming—						
Harvesters	[1]403 0	..	..	..	279 4	[1]289 0
Milkers	[2]298 0	[2]293 0	..	..	279 4	[1]289 0
Gardening—						
Gardeners	325 6	291 0	281 0	278 0	294 11	297 0
Gardeners' Labourers	313 0	281 0	266 0	273 0	284 11	291 0
Nurserymen ..	333 0	288/6 & 299/	281 0	304 6	301 11	322 0
Nurserymen's Labourers ..	313 0	272 0	266 0	273 0	284 11	287 0
Pastoral Workers (*a*)—						
Cooks	645 3	645 3	659/2 & 680/2	645 3	645 3	645 3
Shearers—						
Hand .. per 100	165 3	165 3	159 3	165 3	165 3	165 3
Machine .. ,,	153 9	153 9	159 3	153 9	153 9	153 9
Shed Hands ..	480 3	480 3	480 0	480 3	480 3	480 3
Wool Pressers ..	534 9	534 9	539 10	534 9	534 9	534 9
Rural Workers—						
Fruit Harvesters ..	[1]270/ to 279/	[1]268/ to 271/	..	[1]266/ to 271/	..	[1]275/ to 276/

(*a*) Shearers' and woolpressers' hours are 40 a week; shed hands' hours are the same as shearers', with such additional time as may be necessary to finish picking up fleeces, etc. Should the time engaged picking up, etc., exceed 30 minutes a day, all time thereafter must be paid as overtime. The hours of cooks are not regulated. Rates shown are "not found" rates. "Found" rates are £5 a week less, except in Queensland, where they are £4 8s. 2d. a week less.

GROUP XIII.—DOMESTIC, HOTELS, ETC.

NOTE.—The rates of wage specified for employees in Hotels and Restaurants represent the weekly cash payment where board and lodging are *not* provided.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Hairdressing—						
Hairdressers (Men's) ..	333/ to 343/	328 0	303/ & 311/	333 6	323 5	319 0
Hotels—						
Barmen	308 0	300 0	262 0	298 6	323 5	305 0
Billiard Markers ..	288 0	280 0	270 0	261 0	278 5	285 0
Chefs	309/ to 383/	301/ to 375/	294/ & 300/	318/6 to 381/	308/5 to 318/5	306/ to 380/
Cooks—Second ..	310/6 to 339/	302/6 to 331/	285 0	290/ to 306/	292/11 to 298/5	307/6 to 336/
Cooks—Third ..	298 0	290 0	285 0	286 0	288 5	295 0
Handymen	288 0	280 0	270 0	259 6	278 5	285 0
Kitchenmen ..	288 0	280 0	272 6	261 0	278 5	285 0
Lift Attendants ..	288 0	280 0	277 0	287 0	278 5	285 0
Porters—Day Work ..	288 0	280 0	270 0	263 0	283 5	285 0
Porters—Night Work	288 0	280 0	277 0	263 0	288 5	285 0
Waiters—Head ..	308 0	300 0	275 0	281/ & 288/6	..	305 0
Waiters—Other ..	288 0	280 0	270 0	270 0	283 5	285 0
Restaurants—						
Cooks (Single) ..	332 0	301 0	299 6	283 6	298 5	302 0
Pantrymen	298 6	283 0	275 6	259 6	278 5	285 6
Waiters	298/6 & 301/	283 0	275 6	269 6	283 5	282 0

(1) 44 hours. (2) 48 hours.

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SECTION IV.—*continued.*

GROUP XIV.—MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL LABOUR.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Factory Engine Driving—						
Engine Drivers (Stationary)—						
1st Class ..	320/6 & 331/	312/6 & 323/	319 0	308/6 & 319/	(*a*) 318 5	319/6 & 330/
2nd Class ..	310/ & 320/6	302/ & 312/6	308 6	298/ & 308/6	(*a*) 318 5	309/ & 319/6
3rd Class ..	..	..	296 0	..	(*a*) 308 5	..
Firemen—						
1st Class ..	313 0	305 0	288 6	301 0	(*a*) 308 5	312 0
2nd Class ..	300 6	292 6	288 6	288 6	(*a*) 296 5	299 6
Greasers	291/ & 309/	283/ & 301/	279 0	279/ & 297/	(*a*) 292 11	290/ & 308/
Trimmers	287 0	279 0	275 0	275 0	(*a*) 289 11	286 0
Municipal—						
Labourers	336 0	296 6	278 6	264 0	275 11	291 0
Street Sweepers ..	342 0	302 0	278 6	272/3 & 279/	275/11 to 286/11	291 0
Shop and other Assistants-						
Boot Salesmen ..	335 0	318 9	306 0	307 8	314 11	322 0
Chemists' Assistants ..	403 0	390 0	343 6	347 11	297/9 & 308/8	357 6
Clerks	325 0	327 0	306 0	302 0	333 5	338 0
Drapery Salesmen ..	335 0	318 9	306 0	307 8	314 11	322 0
Furniture Salesmen ..	335 0	322 9	306 0	307 8	314 11	336 0
Grocery Salesmen ..	335 0	318 9	306 0	302 7	314 11	322 0
Hardware Salesmen ..	335 0	318 9	306 0	307 8	314 11	322 0
Railway Bookstall Assistants ..	335 0	305 6	306 0	307 8	314 11	322 0
Tobacconists' Assts. ..	335 0	318 9	306 0	301 7	314 11	302 0
Storemen — Packing, Cleaning, etc.—						
Night Watchmen ..	299 0	283 0	281 0	279 0	317 5	..
Office Cleaners (Day)	301/ & 305/	283 0	278 0	256 0	298 5	291 0
Packers— General ..	313/ & 317/	306 6	293 0	292 0	309 11	303 0
Storemen—General ..	313/ & 317/	306 6	293 0	292 0	309 11	303 0
Wholesale Grocery—						
Packers	313 0	306/ & 309/6	293 0	92 0	309 11	303 0
Storemen	309 0	306/ & 309/6	293 0	292 0	309 11	303 0
Wholesale Hardware—						
Packers	313/ & 317/	306 6	293 0	292 0	309 11	303 0
Storemen	309/ & 313/	306 6	293 0	292 0	309 11	303 0

(*a*) Rates shown are those for the sawmilling industry.

26
30
32
24
26
37
46
41
40
43
47
37
71
500

SECTION V.

MINIMUM RATES OF WAGE FOR ADULT FEMALE WORKERS IN THE MAIN OCCUPATIONS IN THE CAPITAL CITY OF EACH STATE FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK (EXCLUDING OVERTIME) AT 31st DECEMBER, 1958.

(*See* Explanatory Note at top of page 172.)

NOTE.—The hours of work (constituting a full week's work) for all occupations shown hereunder are 40 a week.

GROUP III.—FOOD, DRINK, TOBACCO, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
Biscuit Making—						
Adult Females ..	206 4	217 0	202 4	219 3	188 9	204 0
Confectionery—						
Adult Females ..	218 6	210 0	197 0	219 3	185 3	215 0
Jam Making and Preserving—						
Fillers	221 3	221 3	209 8	221 3	189 4	221 3
Other Adults ..	215 0	215 0	209 8	215 0		215 0
Tea Packing—						
Head Women ..	..	234 9	216/11 to 232/11	..	..	..
Other Adults ..	204 6	215 0	211 11	208 0	185 3	..
Tobacco Working (Cigars)—						
Ringers	215 6	197 0	181/6 to 197/	..	185 3	..
Wrapper Leaf Strippers	209/3 & 219/4	204 6	181/6 to 197/	..		..

GROUP IV.—CLOTHING, TEXTILES, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
Bootmaking—						
Machinists — Wax Thread	222/6 & 225/	222/6 & 225/	222/6 & 225/	222/6 & 225/	222/6 & 225/	222/6 & 225/
Other Adults ..	217 6	217 6	217 6	217 6	217 6	217 6
Dressmaking—						
Adult Females ..	201/6 to 236/6	201/6 to 236/6	201/6 to 236/6	201/6 to 236/6	201/6 to 236/6	201/6 to 236/6
Dyeing and Cleaning—						
Adult Females ..	201 6	201 6	201 6	201 6	201 6	201 6
Hat Making (Straw)—						
Finishers & Machinists	204 6	219 0	219 0	219 0	219 0	219 0
Millinery—						
Adult Females ..	201 6	201 6	201 6	201 6	201 6	201 6
Shirt Making—						
Adult Females ..	201 6	201 6	201 6	201 6	201 6	201 6
Men's Tailoring (Order)—						
Coat Hands (Machinists)	236 6	236 6	236 6	236 6	236 6	236 6
Trousers, Vest Hands	222 0	222 0	222 0	222 0	222 0	222 0
Tailoresses	257 6	257 6	257 6	257 6	257 6	257 6
Adult Females ..	201 6	201 6	201 6	201 6	201 6	201 6

SECTION V.—*continued.*

GROUP IV.—CLOTHING, TEXTILES, ETC.—*continued.*

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
Men's Tailoring (Ready Made)—						
Coat Hands (Machinists)	225 0	225 0	225 0	225 0	225 0	225 0
Trousers, Vest Hands	219 0	219 0	219 0	219 0	219 0	219 0
Adult Females ..	201 6	201 6	201 6	201 6	201 6	201 6
Textile Working (Woollen Mills)—						
Comb Minders ..	215 6	215 6	202 6	210 6	215 6	215 6
Darners and Menders	217/6 & 220/6	217/6 & 220/6		212/6 & 215/6	217/6 & 220/6	217/6 & 220/6
Warpers, Plain ..	217 6	217 6		212 6	217 6	217 6
Weavers, Loom ..	220 6	220 6		215 6	220 6	220 6
Other Adults ..	199 6	199 6		194 6	199 6	199 6
Underclothing—						
Adult Females ..	201/6 to 236/6	201/6 to 236/6	201/6 to 236/6	201/6 to 236/6	201/6 to 236/6	201/6 to 236/6

GROUPS I., II., V. AND VI.—OTHER MANUFACTURING.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
Bedding and Furniture—						
Bedding Machinists ..	208 0	215 0	195 8	212 0	190 4	220 0
Picture Frame Workers	224/ & 327/	202 6	231/1 & 284/2	199 6	190 4	207 6
Bookbinding—						
Folders and Sewers ..	225 0	219 0	206 0	216 0	219 6	224 0
Brushmaking—						
Adult Females ..	214/6 & 224/6	203/ & 205/6	180 0	203/9 to 210/9	182 9	..
Candle and Soap Making—						
Adult Females ..	204 6	211 3	207 0	208 3	182 3	..
Cardboard Box Making—						
Box Makers ..	220/ to 229/6	214/ to 223/6	201/ to 210/6	211/ to 220/6	214/6 to 224/	219/ to 228/6
Other Adults ..	213 6	207 6	194 6	204 6	208 0	212 6
Jewellery—						
Chainmakers ..	343 0	213 0	218 6	239 2	..	..
Gilders	220 6		203 6		..	..
Polishers	220 6		203 6	233 0	..	..
Scratch Brushers ..	220 6		203 6		..	..
Leather Goods—						
Adult Females ..	221 0	215 0	202 0	212 0	193 9	220 0
Paper Bag Making—						
Adult Females ..	213/6 to 223/	207/6 to 217/	194/6 to 204/	204/6 to 214/	208/ to 217/6	212/6 to 222/
Paper Making—						
Adult Females ..	221 0	215 0	(*a*) 187 6	..	..	220 0
Potteries—						
Adult Females ..	210 6	200 6	192 6	205 11	177 9	..
Printing—						
Jobbing Office Assistants	225 0	219 0	206 0	216 0	219 6	224 0
Lithographic Feeders	225 0	219 0	206 0	216 0	219 6	224 0
Rubber Working—						
Adult Females ..	209 0	203 0	195 0	213 6	203 6	..
Tent and Tarpaulin Making—						
Machinists	221 0	215 0	202 0	212 0	182 9	220 0

(*a*) Paper board making.

SECTION V.—*continued.*

GROUP XIII.—DOMESTIC, HOTELS, ETC.

NOTE.—The rates of wage mentioned herein for employees in Hotels and Restaurants represent the weekly cash payment where board and lodging are *not* provided.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane,	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Hotels—						
Barmaids	238 6	300 0	209 6	..	323 5	236 0
Housemaids ..	218 0	212 0	190 0	208 6	197 10	215 6
Laundresses ..	219 0	213 0	196 0	215 0	197 10	216 6
Waitresses—Head ..	225 0	219 0	195 0	213 6	..	222 6
,, Other ..	218 0	212 0	190 0	208 6	197 10	215 6
Laundries—						
General Hands ..	204 6	198 6		216 0		195 0
Machinists—Shirt and Collar	206 0	205 6		223 0		195 0
Sorters	206 0	198 6	186 0	223 0	185 3	195 0
Starchers	204 6	205 6		219 0		195 0
Washers	204 6	205/6 & 257/6		219/ & 253/6		206/ & 216/
Office Cleaning (Day)—						
Adult Females ..	213/6 & 215/6	266 6	204 0	192 0	202 9	..
Restaurants—						
Pantry Maids ..	212 0	208 6	190 6	206 6	195 3	217 6
Waitresses	212 0	208 6		208 0	197 9	214 0

GROUP XIV.—SHOP ASSISTANTS, CLERKS, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Clerical—						
Cashiers (Shops) ..	244 0	243 9	216 6	226 6	219 9	231 0
Clerks	236 6	239 6	216 6	226 6	219 9	231 0
Ledger Machinists ..	244 0	245 3	224 0	236 6	225 9	238 0
Stenographers ..	244 0	245 3	216 6	236 6	225 9	238 0
Typists	236 6	245 3	216 6	236 6	219 9	231 0
Saleswomen—						
Boots and Shoes ..	244/ & 335/	226 0	211 0	230 9		219/6 & 289/10
Drapery	244/ & 335/	226/ & 318/9	211/ & 306/	230/9 & 307/8		219/6 & 289/10
Fruit and Confectionery	236 6	222 0	211 0	226 11	207 9	214 0
Newsagents and Bookstalls	236 6	208/3 & 214/9	211 0	230 9		219 6
Tobacconists ..	236 6	228 6	211 0	226 2		214 0

SECTION VI.

WEEKLY RATES OF WAGE AND HOURS OF LABOUR: AUSTRALIA, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND NEW ZEALAND.

(Wages are quoted in the currency of the country concerned.)

Industry and Occupation.	Australia (Sydney).				United Kingdom (London).				New Zealand (Auckland).			
	31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1958.		31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1958.		31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1958.	
	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.
	s. d.		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.	
Furniture—												
Cabinet Maker	107 0	44	345 0	40	82 3	47	209 0	44	110 0	40	251 2	40
Upholsterer	107 0	44	345 0	40	82 3	47			110 0	40	..	..
French Polisher	107 0	44	345 0	40	82 3	47			110 0	40	..	..
Sawmilling—												
Machinist, Planing	91 0 and 100 0	44	311 0 and 338 0	40	..	..	..	..	103 4	40	259 7	40
Machinist, Shaping	105 0	44	338 0	40	..	..	..	..	103 4	40	259 7	40
Sawyer, Band or Jig	95 0 to 108 0	44	310 6 to 343 0	40	..	..	..	..	96 8	40	244 10	40
Sawyer, Circular	95 0 to 102 0	44	313 0 and 335 0	40	..	..	..	..	112 6	40	270 5	40
Engineering and Metal Working—												
Fitter and Turner	108 0 and 112 0	44	343 0	40	70 11	47	191 3½	44	110 0	40	260 10	40
Patternmaker	120 0	44	365 6	40	71 3	47	..	..	110 0	40	260 10	40
Moulder (Iron)	90 0 to 111 0	44	296 0 to 343 0	40	70 11	44	199 11½	44	110 0	40	256 8	40
Tinsmith	101 6	44	318 0 and 343 0	40	..	..	..	..	110 0	40	259 2	40
Milling (Flour)—												
Miller (shift)	97 0 to 107 6	44	347 6 to 385 0	40	71 0 and 73 0	42	235 6	40	(*a*) 99 4	40	(*b*)269 10	40
Packerman	85 0	44	323 0	40	..	..	..	..	95 4	40	238 4	40

(*a*) Kilnman. (*b*) Rollerman.

SECTION VI.—*continued.*

WEEKLY RATES OF WAGE AND HOURS OF LABOUR: AUSTRALIA, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND NEW ZEALAND—*continued.*

Industry and Occupation.	AUSTRALIA (SYDNEY).				UNITED KINGDOM (LONDON).				NEW ZEALAND (AUCKLAND).			
	31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1958.		31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1958.		31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1958.	
	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.
	s. d.		*s. d.*		*s. d.*		*s. d.*		*s. d.*		*s. d.*	
Bootmaking (Manufacturing)—												
Bootmaker	104 0	44	317 0	40	51 6 to 58 0	45	170 0	45	91 8	40	247 10	40
Tailoring (Ready-made)—												
Cutter	101 0	44	336 0	40	..	..	..	..	102 6	40	244 10	40
Presser (Coat)	98 0	44	320 0	40	..	..	..	..	92 6	40	238 0	40
Trimmer	98 0	44	320 0	40	..	..	..	..	92 6	40	244 10	40
Bookbinding—												
Bookbinder	108 0	44	343 0	40	80 0	45	233 0	43½	107 6	40	259 7	40
Paper Ruler	108 0	44	343 0	40	80 0	45	233 0	43½	107 6	40	..	..
Printing (Daily Newspaper)—												
Compositor (Day Work) ..	131 0	44	433 0	40	89 0	45	..	..	107 6	40	259 7	40
Reader (Day Work)	139 6	44	398 0	40	..	..	..	..	112 6	40	268 5	40
Printing (Jobbing Offices)—												
Compositor	108 0 and 117 0	44	343 0 to 365 6	40	89 0	45	233 0	43½	107 6	40	259 7	40
Linotype Operator (Day Work) ..	117 0	44	365 6	40	..	..	..	..	115 0	40	269 5	40
Building—												
Bricklayer	121 0	44	376 8	40	77 0	44	209 0 and 210 10	44	115 0	40	256 1	40
Carpenter	121 0	44	385 0	40	77 0	44	209 0 and 210 10	44	112 6	40	254 6	40

SECTION VI.—*continued.*

WEEKLY RATES OF WAGE AND HOURS OF LABOUR: AUSTRALIA, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND NEW ZEALAND—*continued.*

Industry and Occupation.	AUSTRALIA (SYDNEY).				UNITED KINGDOM (LONDON).				NEW ZEALAND (AUCKLAND).			
	31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1958.		31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1958.		31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1958.	
	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.
Building—continued.	*s. d.*		*s. d.*		*s. d.*		*s. d.*		*s. d.*		*s. d.*	
Labourer—Carpenter's	87 0	44	318 4	40	57 9	44	185 2 and 187 0	44	93 4	40	230 1	40
Concrete Worker	87 0	44			(*a*)	(*a*)			93 4	40		
Earth Excavator	87 0	44			(*a*)	(*a*)			93 4	40		
Painter	114 4	44	372 6	40	73 4	44	209 0 and 210 10	44	110 0	40	251 2	40
Paperhanger	114 4	44	372 6	40	77 0	44			110 0	40	251 2	40
Plasterer	121 0	44	381 8	40	77 0	44			115 0	40	261 8	40
Plumber	125 0	44	389 3	40	77 0	44			110 0	40	265 3	40
Tramways—												
Conductor—												
1st year	87 0	44	298 0	40	73 0 to 82 0	48	188 0	44	95 10 and 100 0	40	230 1 and 235 0	40
2nd year	90 0	44	313 0	40			188 0				235 0	40
3rd year, etc.	93 0	44	313 0	40			198 0				235 0	40
Motorman—												
1st year	99 0	44	325 6	40	73 0 to 82 0	48	190 0	44	100 0 and 103 4	40	243 10	40
2nd year	99 0	44					190 0					
3rd year, etc.	99 0	44					202 0					
Carrying (*Merchandise*)—												
Motor Waggon Driver (2-4 tons)	92 0	44	327 0 and 336 0	40	60 0 and 61 0	48	168 0	44	93 0	40	231 3	40
Municipal—Labourer	94 6	44	336 0	40	58 8 to 64 6	47	184 2	44	90 0	40	240 0	40

(*a*) Not available.

SECTION VII.

COMMONWEALTH CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION COMMISSION.

BASIC WAGE INQUIRY, 1959.

As in 1958 this inquiry was originated by summons on behalf of several organizations of employees for the undermentioned variations of the current Metal Trades Award of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission; namely, by increasing the amounts of basic wage prescribed therein for respective cities, towns and localities to the figure they each would have reached had the quarterly adjustment system based on the " C " Series retail price index numbers been retained, plus an addition of 10s. to each basic wage, and by making provision for future adjustment of each of the new amounts at quarterly intervals by the application thereto of the same index numbers.

The inquiry opened on 24th February, 1959 before Kirby *C.J.*, Foster and Gallagher *JJ.*, and the judgment was delivered on 5th June, 1959.

The following is an extract from a statement made by Kirby *C.J.* on 5th June, 1959 on behalf of the three members of the bench:—

" The questions for decision by the Commission may be described in these terms:—

1. Should the basic wage in the Pastoral Award 1956 be reduced by 25s. or at all?
2. Should the system of automatic quarterly adjustments be restored?
3. Should there be an increase in the basic wage?
4. If so, of what amount?

On the first question, namely, whether the basic wage in the Pastoral Award 1956 should be reduced, the Commission was unanimous that the claim for a reduction should be refused. On the second question, namely, whether the system of automatic quarterly adjustments should be restored, the members of the Commission were divided in opinion and therefore the question pursuant to section 68 has been decided according to the decision of the majority.

The majority decision on this question, namely, that of the President and Mr. Justice Gallagher is that the claim of the unions for restoration of the said system should be refused. Mr. Justice Foster dissents. The result is that the said system will not be restored.

On the third question, namely, whether there should be an increase in the basic wage, the members of the Commission were unanimous in the opinion that there should be an increase.

On the fourth question, namely, the amount of the increase, the members of the Commission were divided in opinion in this manner:—

The President Mr. Justice Kirby was of opinion that the increase should be one of 15s. added to each basic wage for adult males in the awards concerned and that the increased basic wage should become payable as from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing on or after 11th June, 1959.

Mr. Justice Foster was of opinion that the increase should be 20s., payable as to 10s. as from the first pay-period in July, 1959 and as to the balance by increases of 2s. 6d. for four quarters commencing 1st January, 1960.

SECTION VII.—*continued.*

Mr. Justice Gallagher was of opinion that the increase should be one of 10s. and that the increased wage should become payable as from the date chosen by the President.

Mr. Justice Foster while holding his opinion has decided to concur in the decision proposed by the President, namely, that the amount of the increase of the basic wage should be 15s. per week, which now therefore becomes the decision of the Commission.

Summarizing the foregoing the decisions of the Commission are:—

1. The claim for a reduction of the basic wage in the Pastoral Award is refused.
2. The claim for restoration of automatic quarterly adjustments is refused.
3. The basic wages of adult male employees covered by federal awards will be increased by a uniform amount of 15s. per week.
4. The new rates will come into effect from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing on or after 11th June instant subject to special cases.

The decision regarding basic wages is applicable to all the applications which from time to time have been ordered by the Commission to be joined for hearing and decision with the original application.

In the Metal Trades Award and in awards generally the basic wage for adult females is prescribed at 75 per cent. of the basic wage for adult males. The result of the increase of the basic wage for adult males by 15s. per week will be to increase the basic wage for adult females in these awards to 75 per cent. of the new basic wage for adult males.

In those awards which do not contain such a provision but which prescribe basic wages for adult females of a stated amount equal to 75 per cent. of that for adult males the rate will be re-calculated to give effect to this decision.

In the Metal Trades and in many other awards the rates for juniors and apprentices of both sexes are prescribed at a percentage of the basic wage for adults in which cases the existing provisions of the awards will cover proportionate increases for such juniors and apprentices. In awards which do not contain such provisions applications may be made to the Commission and will be dealt with by the appropriate member of the Commission."

SECTION VIII.

BASIC WAGE RATES—1923 TO 1959.

(Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission(a).)

The following table shows the basic weekly wage rates prescribed for adult males under periodical decisions of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission, including automatic variations made prior to 12th September, 1953 in accordance with quarterly changes in the retail price index for the city or combination of cities shown at the head of the table. On that date the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration announced its decision to discontinue the system of automatic adjustment of the basic wage in accordance with variations occurring in retail price index numbers. The amount *legally* payable in any specific instance must be determined by reference to the appropriate award.

(1) The rates of wage shown include " Powers 3s." (or the equivalent thereof) and " Prosperity " loadings, where applicable.

(2) The 10 per cent. reduction operative from February, 1931, to May, 1934, has been applied.

(3) Generally the rates operated from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in the month indicated.

Date Operative.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals.
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
1923—							
February ..	82 6	82 0	73 0	78 0	73 6	81 6	80 6
May	,,	81 6	73 6	79 6	74 0	83 0	,,
August	86 6	87 6	75 0	84 0	79 6	87 6	85 0
November ..	89 0	91 6	76 0	85 6	78 0	89 0	87 6
1924—							
February ..	87 0	87 6	77 6	84 0	76 0	89 6	85 0
May	86 0	85 6	77 0	,,	78 0	,,	84 6
August	85 6	85 0	75 0	85 6	78 6	88 6	84 0
November ..	84 6	84 6	,,	84 0	79 0	88 0	83 0
1925—							
February ..	85 0	84 0	74 0	83 6	79 6	87 0	83 6
May	86 0	85 6	75 0	85 0	81 0	,,	84 6
August	87 0	87 0	76 6	87 6	82 6	,,	85 6
November ..	88 0	87 6	77 0	86 0	81 0	85 6	86 0
1926—							
February ..	89 6	,,	78 6	85 6	77 6	86 0	86 6
May	90 6	88 6	82 0	86 6	81 6	89 0	88 0
August	92 6	92 0	,,	89 6	84 0	,,	90 6
November ..	91 6	89 0	82 6	85 6	81 6	88 6	88 6
1927—							
February ..	,,	88 6	83 0	84 6	80 0	87 0	88 0
May	90 6	87 6	80 6	86 0	,,	86 6	87 6
August	89 6	87 0	78 6	,,	80 6	85 6	86 6
November ..	90 6	90 0	79 6	88 0	79 6	85 0	88 0
1928—							
February ..	93 0	89 6	80 6	87 0	80 0	84 0	89 0
May	91 6	88 0	79 6	87 6	,,	82 6	88 0
August	92 0	87 6	,,	,,	84 0	83 0	,,
November ..	90 6	86 0	79 0	85 0	85 0	82 6	87 0
1929—							
February ..	91 0	,,	80 0	84 0	,,	83 0	,,
May	95 0	89 6	81 6	88 0	86 0	86 0	90 6
August	94 6	90 0	80 6	88 6	86 6	85 6	,,
November ..	95 0	,,	,,	,,	85 6	86 0	,,

(a) Prior to 30th June, 1956, Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.

SECTION VIII.—*continued.*

Date Operative.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals.
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
1930—							
February ..	95 6	90 0	81 0	87 0	83 6	86 6	90 6
May	92 0	86 0	77 6	84 0	82 6	84 0	87 0
August	91 0	85 6	73 0	82 6	82 0	,,	86 0
November ..	88 0	83 0	70 6	78 0	79 0	82 0	83 0
1931—							
*February ..	76 6	70 2	60 9	66 2	66 2	70 2	71 1
May	74 3	68 5	,,	64 4	66 7	68 10	69 4
August	72 11	65 8	60 4	62 1	65 8	67 1	67 6
November ..	70 8	63 5	58 6	58 1	62 1	64 4	65 3
1932—							
February ..	68 10	,,	,,	,,	60 9	64 10	64 4
May	,,	63 11	,,	58 11	61 8	65 3	64 10
August	68 5	63 0	57 7	58 6	,,	65 8	63 11
November ..	67 6	61 8	56 8	57 2	59 5	64 4	63 0
1933—							
February ..	66 7	60 4	55 10	55 4	58 1	63 5	61 8
May	67 10	63 4	59 4	59 2	59 9	64 10	64 2
August	66 11	62 5	58 10	,,	58 10	63 10	63 4
November ..	,,	62 10	59 4	59 7	60 3	63 11	,,
1934—							
February ..	,,	63 4	,,	60 2	59 3	64 10	63 9
*May	67 0	64 0	61 0	†64 0	66 0	†67 0	65 0
June	68 0	,,	62 0	†65 0	,,	† ,,	66 0
September ..	,,	,,	,,	† ,,	68 0	† ,,	,,
December ..	,,	,,	,,	† ,,	,,	† ,,	,,
1935—							
March	,,	66 0	,,	† ,,	,,	†69 0	,,
June	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,
September ..	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,
December ..	70 0	,,	64 0	67 0	,,	,,	68 0
1936—							
March	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,
June	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,
September ..	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,
December ..	,,	69 0	66 0	69 0	71 0	,,	,,
1937—							
March	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	70 0
June	72 0	,,	68 0	,,	,,	,,	,,
*July	75 0	72 0	71 0	70 0	72 0	72 0	73 0
September ..	,,	73 0	70 0	71 0	73 0	73 0	,,
*October ..	78 0	76 0	73 0	73 0	75 0	75 0	75 0
December ..	,,	77 0	74 0	74 0	,,	,,	76 0
1938—							
March	79 0	,,	,,	75 0	74 0	76 0	77 0
June	,,	,,	75 0	,,	75 0	,,	,,
September ..	80 0	78 0	,,	76 0	76 0	,,	,,
December ..	81 0	79 0	,,	,,	,,	,,	78 0
1939—							
March	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,
June	82 0	81 0	77 0	78 0	77 0	77 0	79 0
September ..	81 0	,,	76 0	,,	,,	,,	,,
December ..	82 0	80 0	,,	77 0	,,	,,	,,
1940—							
February ..	,,	81 0	77 0	,,	,,	78 0	80 0
May	83 0	82 0	78 0	78 0	,,	,,	,,
August	85 0	84 0	79 0	80 0	79 0	80 0	82 0
November ..	,,	,,	,,	,,	80 0	81 0	83 0

* Rates declared subsequent to an inquiry. † Except in special cases these rates were subject to graduated deductions so that the increase granted in May, 1934, was, in effect, introduced in stages over the succeeding twelve months.

SECTION VIII.—*continued.*

Date Operative.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals.
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
1941—							
February ..	88 0	86 0	82 0	82 0	81 0	83 0	85 0
May	,,	87 0	83 0	83 0	82 0	84 0	86 0
August	89 0	,,	,,	,,	84 0	85 0	,,
November ..	,,	88 0	84 0	84 0	85 0	,,	87 0
1942—							
February ..	91 0	89 0	86 0	86 0	86 0	87 0	88 0
May	93 0	92 0	88 0	88 0	87 0	88 0	90 0
August	95 0	94 0	89 0	91 0	89 0	91 0	93 0
November ..	97 0	97 0	91 0	93 0	91 0	92 0	95 0
1943—							
February ..	98 0	98 0	,,	,,	92 0	94 0	96 0
May	,,	,,	92 0	,,	,,	,,	,,
August	100 0	99 0	94 0	94 0	94 0	95 0	98 0
November ..	99 0	98 0	93 0	,,	,,	,,	97 0
1944—							
February ..	,,	97 0	,,	93 0	93 0	94 0	96 0
May	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,
August	,,	98 0	,,	,,	,,	93 0	,,
November ..	,,	,,	,,	,,	94 0	94 0	,,
1945—							
February ..	,,	,,	,,	,,	93 0	,,	,,
May	98 0	,,	,,	,,	,,	93 0	,,
August	,,	,,	,,	,,	94 0	,,	,,
November ..	99 0	,,	,,	,,	,,	94 0	,,
1946—							
February ..	,,	,,	,,	94 0	,,	95 0	,,
May	,,	,,	94 0	,,	,,	,,	97 0
August	100 0	99 0	,,	95 0	95 0	96 0	98 0
November ..	101 0	,,	,,	,,	,,	97 0	,,
*December ..	108 0	106 0	101 0	102 0	102 0	103 0	105 0
1947—							
February ..	,,	107 0	103 0	,,	103 0	104 0	106 0
May	110 0	,,	104 0	103 0	,,	,,	,,
August	,,	108 0	,,	104 0	104 0	105 0	107 0
November ..	112 0	109 0	105 0	106 0	106 0	107 0	109 0
1948—							
February ..	114 0	113 0	107 0	108 0	107 0	110 0	111 0
May	116 0	115 0	110 0	111 0	110 0	112 0	114 0
August	120 0	117 0	113 0	114 0	112 0	115 0	116 0
November ..	122 0	120 0	115 0	116 0	116 0	118 0	119 0
1949—							
February ..	124 0	123 0	118 0	119 0	118 0	121 0	122 0
May	127 0	125 0	119 0	121 0	120 0	124 0	124 0
August	130 0	128 0	122 0	124 0	126 0	127 0	127 0
November ..	132 0	130 0	125 0	126 0	129 0	128 0	129 0
1950—							
February ..	135 0	134 0	127 0	129 0	131 0	131 0	133 0
May	138 0	137 0	129 0	131 0	133 0	,,	135 0
August	142 0	140 0	132 0	134 0	136 0	135 0	138 0
November ..	146 0	143 0	135 0	137 0	139 0	139 0	142 0
*December ..	165 0	162 0	154 0	158 0	160 0	160 0	162 0
1951—							
February ..	173 0	170 0	159 0	166 0	166 0	165 0	169 0
May	180 0	177 0	166 0	171 0	176 0	173 0	176 0
August	193 0	189 0	175 0	184 0	188 0	187 0	189 0
November ..	207 0	199 0	185 0	195 0	197 0	199 0	200 0

* Rates declared subsequent to an inquiry.

SECTION VIII.—*continued.*

Date Operative.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals.
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
1952—							
February ..	216 0	209 0	199 0	205 0	205 0	208 0	210 0
May	223 0	212 0	207 0	211 0	214 0	214 0	216 0
August	235 0	224 0	213 0	224 0	222 0	222 0	227 0
November ..	237 0	228 0	216 0	229 0	228 0	230 0	231 0
1953—							
February ..	238 0	229 0	215 0	225 0	229 0	232 0	231 0
May	241 0	232 0	217 0	228 0	231 0	239 0	234 0
†August	243 0	235 0	218 0	231 0	236 0	242 0	236 0
1956—							
*June	253 0	245 0	228 0	241 0	246 0	252 0	246 0
1957—							
*May	263 0	255 0	238 0	251 0	256 0	262 0	256 0
1958—							
*May	268 0	260 0	243 0	256 0	261 0	267 0	261 0
1959—							
*‡June	283 0	275 0	258 0	271 0	276 0	282 0	276 0

* Rates declared subsequent to an inquiry. † Automatic quarterly adjustments discontinued.
‡ As a result of the 1959 Basic Wage Inquiry. *See* p. 192.

SECTION IX.

COMPARATIVE INDEX NUMBERS FOR THE SIX CAPITAL CITIES COMBINED.

(Base of each Section: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1911 = 1,000.) (*a*)

Period.	Retail Price Index Numbers.							Nominal Wage Rates, Adult Males.	Real Wage Rates.(*b*)(*d*)	
	Food and Groceries.(*b*)		Rent (4 and 5 Roomed Houses). (*c*)	Clothing.	Miscellaneous.	Total "C" Series Retail Price Index.(*b*)				
Year.										
1911 ..	1,000		1,000	(*e*)1,000	(*e*)1,000	(*e*) 1,000		1,000	1,000	
1914 ..	1,144		1,082	1,140	1,140	1,140		1,081	948	
1921 ..	1,902		1,410	1,883	1,537	1,680		1,826	1,087	
1928 ..	1,761		1,743	1,507	1,537	1,675		1,963	1,172	
1932 ..	1,425		1,336	1,215	1,458	1,377		1,639	1,190	
1938 ..	1,584		1,540	1,253	1,463	1,488		1,799	1,209	
1939 ..	1,657		1,577	1,271	1,465	1,526		1,846	1,210	
1947 ..	1,967		1,597	2,367	1,825	1,971		2,598	1,318	
1948 ..	2,245		1,601	2,637	1,913	2,148		2,914	1,357	
1949 ..	2,492		1,605	3,019	2,037	2,349		3,210	1,367	
1950 ..	2,800		1,613	3,455	2,184	2,589		3,596	1,389	
1951 ..	3,649		1,649	4,156	2,555	3,124		4,495	1,439	
1952 ..	4,516		1,728	4,657	2,980	3,645		5,241	1,438	
1953 ..	4,723		1,861	4,872	3,126	3,820		5,539	1,450	
1954 ..	4,776		1,949	4,865	3,139	3,860		5,632	1,459	
1955 ..	5,027		2,005	4,894	3,168	3,970		5,773	1,454	
	A	B				A	B		A	B
1956 ..	5,227	5,514	2,166	4,930	3,403	4,130	4,226	(*f*)6,050	1,465	1,432
1957 ..	5,315	5,311	2,256	5,075	3,611	4,259	4,257	(*f*)6,261	1,470	1,471
1958 ..	5,402	5,352	2,386	5,167	3,690	4,357	4,340	6,361	1,460	1,466
Quarter—										
1951.										
December ..	4,133		1,656	4,429	2,731	3,388		4,850	1,432	
1952.										
March ..	4,298		1,672	4,523	2,783	3,481		5,036	1,447	
June ..	4,589		1,702	4,685	2,967	3,661		5,156	1,408	
September ..	4,633		1,750	4,709	3,072	3,714		5,345	1,439	
December ..	4,544		1,789	4,712	3,098	3,722		5,428	1,458	
1953.										
March ..	4,599		1,835	4,838	3,118	3,763		5,443	1,446	
June ..	4,658		1,857	4,906	3,122	3,805		5,512	1,449	
September ..	4,804		1,870	4,880	3,127	3,851		5,591	1,452	
December ..	4,831		1,882	4,863	3,136	3,861		5,611	1,453	
1954.										
March ..	4,798		1,900	4,880	3,151	3,861		5,622	1,456	
June ..	4,774		1,947	4,856	3,137	3,856		5,624	1,459	
September ..	4,746		1,970	4,853	3,133	3,851		5,623	1,460	
December ..	4,787		1,977	4,870	3,136	3,871		5,658	1,462	
1955.										
March ..	4,882		1,983	4,865	3,115	3,898		5,720	1,467	
June ..	4,952		1,997	4,898	3,151	3,941		5,746	1,458	
	A	B				A	B		A	B
September ..	5,024	5,103	2,014	4,903	3,168	3,973	4,001	5,774	1,453	1,443
December ..	5,061	5,169	2,025	4,910	3,239	4,004	4,041	5,853	1,462	1,448
1956.										
March ..	5,098	5,232	2,142	4,903	3,253	4,044	4,090	(*f*)5,895	1,458	1,441
June ..	5,225	5,461	2,158	4,910	3,367	4,115	4,195	(*f*)6,013	1,461	1,433
September ..	5,302	5,800	2,174	4,928	3,460	4,167	4,334	(*f*)6,090	1,461	1,405
December ..	5,282	5,562	2,189	4,977	3,532	4,192	4,286	(*f*)6,201	1,479	1,447
1957.										
March ..	5,315	5,331	2,218	5,024	3,556	4,226	4,231	(*f*)6,193	1,465	1,464
June ..	5,322	5,359	2,245	5,070	3,605	4,256	4,268	(*f*)6,270	1,473	1,469
September ..	5,340	5,319	2,271	5,087	3,634	4,278	4,271	(*f*)6,290	1,470	1,473
December ..	5,284	5,234	2,288	5,119	3,649	4,275	4,256	(*f*)6,292	1,472	1,478
1958.										
March ..	5,385	5,343	2,308	5,129	3,652	4,316	4,301	6,290	1,457	1,462
June ..	5,396	5,332	2,379	5,176	3,653	4,348	4,326	6,366	1,464	1,472
September ..	5,395	5,329	2,414	5,179	3,688	4,364	4,341	6,391	1,464	1,472
December ..	5,431	5,404	2,444	5,184	3,768	4,401	4,391	6,396	1,453	1,457

(*a*) The index numbers given in the separate columns of the table cannot be compared with each other in order to show, for example, the relative cost of food and groceries and rent, since the cost in 1911 *in each group or combination of groups* is made equal to 1,000. (*b*) The index in column "A" excludes, and that in column "B" includes, the price movement of potatoes and onions. (*c*) *See* note (*c*) on page 21. (*d*) Index of nominal weekly wage rates divided by "C" Series Retail Price Index Number. (*e*) Taken back from November, 1914 by means of the Food and Rent (All Houses) Index. (*f*) Partly estimated.

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